

Reporting Agency: UNDP  
Country: Armenia

## STANDARD PROGRSS REPORT

No. and title: 00076016 / Strengthening of National Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction Capacities

Reporting period: January– December 2016

### I. PURPOSE

The project (00076016) is aimed at further enhancement and contribution to build a well-structured and effective DRR system in Armenia. Developed DRR capacities will enable to systematically address existing and emerging disaster risks in the country, maintaining inclusive and coordinated mechanism for risk identification, assessment and early warning, implementing risk reduction measures and increasing preparedness for effective response and recovery. There are three outputs in support of the project objective. These are as follows:

- Strengthened enabling environment for the implementation of the National DRR Strategy and HFA;
- Improved coordination and cooperation in disaster risk reduction;
- Integration of disaster and climate risk management into community, local, and municipal development.

Main implementing partners of the project are the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Armenia (MES), DRR National Platform, Crisis Management Academy of MES and Municipalities.

### II. RESOURCES

**Total 00076016 project budget for 2016: US\$ 385,854**

(BCPR - US\$ 64,552.00, Catalytic Fund-US\$100,000.00, DGECHO-US\$151,841, TRAC-US\$60,000, TRAC3- US\$ 8,362, GOV CS-US\$ 792, DRRNP-US\$ 307).

### III. RESULTS

#### **00076016**

**Strengthening of National Disaster Risk Reduction Capacities- project (00076016)** aimed at contributing towards building a well-structured and effective DRR system in Armenia ensuring its further enhancement and effective performance. Improved DRR capacities will enable the national structures in charge to systematically address existing and emerging disaster risks in the country, maintaining inclusive and coordinated mechanism for risk identification, assessment and early warning, implementing risk reduction measures and increasing preparedness for effective response and recovery.

Project activities include:

- Strengthened enabling environment for the implementation of the National DRR Strategy and HFA;
- Improved coordination and cooperation in disaster risk reduction;
- Integration of disaster and climate risk management into community, local, and municipal development.

The Government of Armenia has undertaken serious steps towards integration of disaster risk reduction into development policies and programs. Risk informed development is a key priority area for Armenia. The country strongly supports the idea of localization and dissemination of best practices in DRR identification, assessment and modeling. Information about DRR and climate change has by all means to be accessible to all parties involved and should become a cornerstone for development decisions at all levels. Within DRM capacity development UNDP with DGECHO support implements project that will strengthen community resilience by applying a multi-hazard approach to preparedness and development and by strengthening coordination between key actors - including local, environment and emergency authorities, private sector and civil society. The activities will target local actors and communities in disaster prone area of Kapan city in Armenia and neighboring Syunik rural community, but also be further spread to the regional and national level.

The implemented activities based on the project AWP are presented below.

**Enabling environment for the functional National Platform for DRR, implementation of national DRR Strategy and HFA/Sendai framework for DRR**

- In the beginning of 2016, UNDP with partnership of the World Bank and MES conducted DRM assessment based on Sendai Framework for DRR. The capacity development recommendations were provided to the Government and intervened with Sendai and SDG targets. The assessment results were finalized and presented to the Government. Based on the assessment recommendations National DRM strategy was developed in partnership with MES, WB and other interested partners within the frame of DRR NP by taking into consideration the SDG and Sendai priorities and presented to the Government for adoption.
- During the reporting period the following experts were contracted to support DRR Project to reach the results of the planned activities and submitted final reports on the accomplished tasks: Expert on Establishment of Early Warning System, Expert on Smart City concept, Expert on Building Resilience in Kapan and Dilijan cities, Expert on Developing of DRR and Emergency Response Plans and Expert on Resource planning.
- The concept of DRR and Emergency Response (DRRER) plans was developed in partnership with the MES and Regional Crisis Management Center. DRRER document will be finalized by the end of May 2017 and presented to the Government for adoption.
- Educational manual for “volunteer fire-rescuers” was developed for integration in CMSA curriculum and further formation and capacity development of “Volunteer fire-rescuers” teams in Armenia.

## **Cooperation and Coordination in Disaster Risk Reduction**

- In cooperation with UNICEF, World Vision in Armenia, DRR National Platform, DRR Regional Team and UNDP DRR Project a new approach/model of DRR plans for the schools was developed and tested in five schools of Stepanavan by UNICEF and WV. In May 2016 the presented model was adopted by the Ministry of Education which served as a baseline for integration of DRR, contingency and emergency plans into educational curriculum. In these activities UNDP provided advisory support to the institutions.
- In May 2016, the DRR Programme Coordinator participated in the workshops on Economic Impact of Disasters organized by UNDP Regional HUB in Istanbul and presented the initiative on Establishment of Anti hail nets in the selected communities of Armenia as a model of the cooperation with the private sector.
- Within the frame of Catalytic Fund project partnership was established with World Bank to conduct Science-based multi-risk assessment in Dilijan city aimed at modelling of GIS-based multi-risk scenarios. Assessments were undertaken as a multi-stakeholder process led by local governments and with the involvement of public and private sector, national academy of science, seismic protection service of MES and the Georisk LLC.
- Stepanavan “LORE” Rescue Team NGO was contracted to conduct the Local Level Risk Assessment (LLRM) in Dilijan community (funded by Catalytic Fund), Kapan city and Syunik community (funded by DGECHO project) by using the LLRM methodology. The assessment was conducted in participatory manner and the representatives of the City Resilience and DRR Teams were involved in the assessment process.
- With the support of UNDP expert, the needs and technical specifications for the establishment of early warning system in the targeted cities and communities were identified and the locations and zones for the information distribution were mapped out and presented to the municipality and the MES. The early warning system equipment was procured, installed in the targeted communities and tested in partnership with the regional Crisis Management Centers and the Municipalities. Early warning system covers the territory of Yerevan (funded by ICT4DRR project), Kapan (funded by DGECHO project), Stepanavan and Dilijan cities (funded by Catalytic Fund) and Syunik community (funded by DGECHO project) and will also serve as regional coordination system for information management. The early warning system is connected with the regional and national system and is a part of unified national early warning system serving as information sharing mechanism at national, regional and community levels.

## **Integration of disaster and climate risk management into community, local and municipal development programmes.**

- In the beginning of 2016 within the frame of Catalytic Fund project, the cities of Stepanavan and Dilijan were targeted by UNDP and WB for testing the concept of resilience. Stepanavan city resilience action plan was updated and integrated into the city development plans. Dilijan City Resilience Team was established by the order of city mayor. Assessment based on the Ten Point check list for Making Cities Resilient and related “Local Government Self-Assessment Tool” were conducted by the representatives of resilience team members with the support of UNDP expert and DRR National Platform junior specialists. Based on the assessment results the Resilience Action Plan was developed and presented to the Municipality of Dilijan to integrate into the 5-year development cycle of the city.

- EDP equipment was procured for Stepanavan and Dilijan aimed at enhancing the capacity of the municipality for effective usage of GIS based seismic risk profile software for city risk informed urban planning.
- Within the frame of DGECHO funded Kapan City Resilience Team was formed by the order of Kapan city mayor and the Syunik DRR team was established by the Head of community. A three-day **training on Making Cities Resilience (MCR) and basics of Disaster Risk Management (DRM)** was organized for the representatives of Kapan CRT to introduce the concepts of DRM and resilience building in urbanized territories and to familiarise with the project tool and methodology. **Three days training on Flash Environmental Assessment Tool (FEAT)** was organized for the representatives of Kapan CRT and MES in cooperation with DRR National Platform, UNEP/OCHA and the Crisis Management State Academy.
- LLRM training was organised by the experts of LORE Rescue Team for the representatives of Kapan and Dilijan CRT and Syunik DRR team members. Participants of the training were involved in the LLRM assessment process in partnership with Lore Rescue Team and the regional Rescue Department.
- Within the frame of Catalytic Fund project 2-day workshop on Resilience Building was conducted for Dilijan Resilience team, assigned staff of Dilijan municipality, representatives from city critical infrastructures and DRM players /NGOs running DRM. The purpose of the workshop was introduction of Local Government Self-Assessment Tool (LGSAT) to Dilijan city representatives to help the local governments engage with different stakeholders to map and understand existing gaps and challenges in disaster risk reduction in their city or locality.

### **ICT for the DRR/Smart Kindergarten**

- DRR educational section of early warning application is in development stage within the frame of DRR National platform and in close cooperation with CMSA and will be uploaded in the mobile application in three languages: Armenian, English and Russian.
- Smart kindergarten project was piloted module in No 162 kindergarten aimed at increasing the flexibility of the management of kindergartens, efficiency, transparency and control, as well as quality of service and security level by using innovative technologies.
- UNDP in partnership with World Bank, Ministry of Transport, Communication and Information Technologies, Municipality of Yerevan and innovation lab initiated the development of Smart city concept for Yerevan. Workshop was organized with the involvement of state agencies, private sector, IT companies and other interested parties and the draft concept was presented and recommendations for further updating of the document were provided by the participants. The document is in development stage and will be finalized by the end on May, 2017.

### **DIPECHO**

-In December 2015 UNDP Armenia developed new project proposal and submitted to DIPECO IV call for Central Asia and South Caucasus. The project proposal on Urban Resilience of Kapan city in the amount of 200,000 EUR was approved by DIPECHO. The activities of the new component started in May 2016. On June 28, 2016 the “Supporting Disaster Risk Reduction amongst Institutions and Vulnerable Communities in the South Caucasus” regional programme was launched in Yerevan. *The Letter of Intent* on the Collaboration in Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction in Education and Community Development was signed by the implementing

organizations and the Government by setting out the broad framework for the implementation of the disaster risk reduction activities in the education and community development sectors funded under the Project by EC and identifying the responsibilities and collaborative arrangements of all Parties involved.

### **Anti-hail nets**

UNDP DRR Project and “Mainstreaming sustainable land and forest management in dry mountain landscapes of North-Eastern Armenia” established partnership with the ACBA Credit Agricole Bank aimed at promoting the private-public partnership in order to mitigate negative social implications associated with losses in agricultural and forest sector by mitigating the risks related to hail storms based on the UNDP positive experience of 2012. This will ensure the risk informed agriculture development and sustainable income thus becoming an excellent baseline for decrease the pressure on forest ecosystems by the community residents.

Within the frame of the is partnership the parties agreed that 25% of the nets will be provided as a grant by MSL FSM, while the 75% will be loan money provided by Bank. Bank will pay back the 75% loan money to the UNDP DRR Project using the cost sharing agreement modality. DRR Project will use the received amount for replication of the project in other regions of Armenia. In this regard 18000m of anti-hail nets were procured to be distributed to farmers based on the loan contracts signed with the Bank.

### **GARD**

During November 2016 two working meetings of the inter-agency working group of the “National Support Body” were held with the initiative of the MES of the RA and the financial support of UNDP. The main goal of the meeting was to support state agencies to develop the leading documents for the establishment and operation of the National Support Body, to regulate its activity as well as to provide support in the preparation of agency plans based on the Government decree “On the Approval of the Operation of Civil Aviation Airports and Cooperation with State Agencies of the Republic of Armenia During Emergency Situations”. The outcome of the meetings were: the order “On the Approval of the Operation of Civil Aviation Airports and Cooperation with State Agencies of the Republic of Armenia During Emergency Situations” was discussed and approved by the all ministries and agencies; work plan/schedule for 2017 has been developed; “Host National Support” team was established; the existing mechanisms were piloted and the legislative and organizational gaps were identified; the approaches of the “Host National Support” document were incorporated into the order.

## **IV. FUTURE WORK PLAN**

Proceed with the approved AWP activities for 2017 year.

## **V. FINANCIAL IMPLEMENTATION**

**As of 30 December, 2016**

**Project 00076016**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Planned Budget in USD</b>	<b>Revised Budget</b>	<b>Expenditure as of 30.12.2016</b>
<b>Activity 2:</b> Earthquake Scenario	\$0,000.00	\$74,048.00	\$68,876.70
<b>Activity 3:</b> Enabling environment for the functional National Platform for DRR, implementation of national DRR strategy and SFDRR	\$0,000.00	\$54,857.00	\$50,368.00
<b>Activity 4:</b> Cooperation and Coordination in Disaster Risk Reduction	\$0,000.00	\$54,854.00	\$45,646.22
<b>Activity 5:</b> Integration of disaster and climate risk management into community, local and municipal development	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
<b>Activity 6:</b> Project Management/ Implementation	\$0,000.00	\$9,181.00	\$3,877.58
<b>Activity 7:</b> ICT for DRR	\$60,590.00	\$92,914.00	\$73,501.60
<b>Total for Project 00076016</b>	<b>\$160,590.00</b>	<b>\$385,854.00</b>	<b>\$342,270.10</b>

The delivery of the DRR Project during the reporting period (January-December, 2016) is 89%.

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