

ALBANIAN HFA MONITORING REPORT 2011-2013

General Directorate of Civil Emergencies of Albania

Introduction

Albania aims to improve the management of disasters and create a culture of DRR which permeates every field of government, so that the consequences of future disasters will be reduced. The focus is to establish strategic goals and encourage a culture of civil protection by emphasizing multi-hazard DRR and full participation by all stakeholders while strengthening the representation in the decision making process.

Enhancing the abilities, transferring skills and knowledge of Civil Protection System (CPS) together with raising the culture of volunteerism among the population of Albania will allow us to achieve measurable and sustainable results.

While we strongly believe on close cooperation and coordination between CPS structures we understand the need of integrating them into a comprehensive organizational structure.

The strategic approach

- An integrated approach of the disaster risk reduction, addressing the main risks that are likely to affect our country, in line with climate change adaptations.
- Reduction of impacts of natural disasters on economic and social losses.
- Taking with the European Aquis and approximate its legal framework of civil protection.
- Strengthening the cooperation and coordination between the governmental and non-governmental agencies as well as being more effective and efficient in weather forecasts and response to natural disasters.
- Strengthening of regional cooperation, as well as the strengthening of capacities in better responding by synchronizing the system to better .

Main legal grounds

The constitution of Republic of Albania is the political and juridical starting point-for organizing CE.

Articles 170 (extraordinary measures) and 174 of the Constitution of the Republic of Albania address the issues of state of emergency and disasters, the acts issued and the measures taken under these circumstances.

Law 8756 on "Civil Emergency" 26.03.2001.

Law Nr. 11/2013 "On some amendments to the Law no 8677 date 04.05.2001 "For Protection from fire and rescue".

National Civil Emergency Plan.

Number of Council of Ministers degrees.

Civil Protection System

The Civil Protection System in Albania consists of permanent and temporary structures at central level, qark (county) and local level. Through these structures, each ministry, department or institution, has specific responsibilities, for all the stages of the emergency management cycle.

➤ Responsibilities at the national level

1. Council of Ministers

Chairs the National Management System of Civil Emergencies in Albania. It approves the strategies, policies and programs which aim at the prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response to civil emergency situations. The Council of Ministers pronounces the state of civil emergency in a given area or all over the country. After the pronouncing of the state of civil emergency, the Council of Ministers establishes the Inter-Ministerial Committee of Civil Emergencies. The Inter-Ministerial Committee of Civil Emergencies coordinates the activities of all the institutions involved in all the stages of the response to the state of civil emergency.

2. Ministry of Interior

Implements the policies of the Council of Ministers in the fields of planning and coping with civil emergencies. The Directorate for Civil Emergencies is the key institution for disaster management. Through this permanent structure the Ministry monitors the state of the emergency in the entire territory of Albania, whereas in calm situations and in case of low scale emergencies cooperates with central institutions and structures, involved in the issues of civil emergencies. This Department is divided into two functional structures Directorate for Civil Emergency Planning and Coordination, and Operational Directorate of Civil Emergency Management and Control.

3. Line Ministries

Each Ministry is responsible for the planning and management of civil emergencies according to their scope of activity. Their activities are incorporated in all the stages of the emergency management cycle and as appropriate they play a leading or supporting part, depending on the nature of the emergency.

➤ Responsibilities at qark (county) or regional level

The qark's (county's) prefect is responsible for planning and coping with civil emergencies at qark (county) or regional level. Under the chairmanship of the prefect, the Commission of Planning and Responding to Civil Emergencies is established whose task is coordination of activities of the qark (county) authorities and voluntary organizations for planning and coping emergency.

➤ **Responsibilities at municipality and commune level**

The mayor or the head of commune is responsible for planning and responding to civil emergencies in the respective municipality or commune.

Under the chairmanship of the mayor or the head of commune, the Commission of Planning and Responding with Civil Emergencies is established, and its main task is to coordinate all activities of the local government unit and voluntary organizations, responsible for planning and responding to emergencies.

Strategic aims and priorities for the implementation of HFA

HFA PRIORITY 1

Ensure that DRR is both a national and local priority, with a strong institutional basis for implementation.

The main legislation for disaster management in Albania is the Law nr. 8756 from 2001 on 'Civil Emergency Services' and since December 2004 the Council of Ministers has approved the National Civil Emergency Plan. The implementation of the National Plan of Civil Emergencies requests the enhancement of reacting/responding abilities through planning and investments required in the following areas:

Pre-preparation/preparedness and protection of the population; prevention and mitigation of the impacts of an emergent situation on the citizens' life and property; the integrated and efficient response, including new means and technology; rapid recovery and development of the damaged area with standard time. Each line ministry and institution, according to its field of activity, has its own plans for coping with emergencies. Also, there are plans for responding with emergencies at the local and regional level. In 2012 the Albanian Government has endorsement the decision " For criteria and procedures in giving the financial assistance in coverage damage caused from natural disaster or man-made disaster".

Law Nr. 11/2013 "On some amendments to the Law no 8677 date 04.05.2001 "For Protection from fire and rescue". A special focus is given to these amendments on the inspection of certain standards and the prevention part of fires and other emergencies.

Currently the Law "On Civil Protection" proposed by General Directorate of Civil Emergencies is still a Draft-Version, waiting to be approved by the Parliament. This draft-law has completed the Law nr. 8756 and has references to some critical areas such as a stronger role of the Civil Protection and its need to become an Agency/Department under the Prime Minister, more responsibilities for the Prefects as the Head of the Civil Emergency Commission in Qarks, the necessity to include the DRR concepts, the need to vitalize the volunteer services as an effective response structure, facilitation on the incoming assistance in the country etc.

In terms of the strategies, in November 2012, under the AL-DRMAP project Company FALCK-The Netherlands is assigned by General Directorate of Civil Emergencies to work in establishment of the National Strategy in Disaster Risk Reduction, National

Platform and Investments program which will support in financial terms the DRM prospective. The process is well under way and by end of May the contracted company is expected to deliver the final report on these strategic documents.

HFA PRIORITY 2

Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning

Albania has conducted the risk assessment study, as regards the main disasters, affecting our country, (earthquakes, floods, risks from dams burst, landslides, forest fires, technological disaster, avalanches, adverse weather conditions and epidemics) and possesses a comprehensive research and recommending material about these risks. The latest national report on the Risk Assessment on Disasters was conducted under the UNDP, Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization Ministry (actually, Ministry of Interior) and Albanian Academy of Sciences and followed by the National Plan on Civil Emergencies.

National Centre for Forecast and Monitoring of Natural Risks which is situated within the Institute of Geoscience Energy, Water and Environment (IGEWE), is identified as the national monitoring and warning structure for natural hazards of meteorological origin, including floods and wildfires, and earthquakes. It is this structure's prerogative to issue daily Hydro-Met warning bulletins.

Through international cooperation between Italian Department for Civil Protection and General Directorate for Civil Emergency under the Program for Prediction, Prevention and Mitigation of Forest Fire and Flood risk in Albania, the Web-GIS application system DEWETRA was donated by the Italian Civil Protection to the Albanian Civil Protection.

Under this platform is enabled the Early warning System for Floods and Early Warning System for Wildfire and daily bulletins on the related risks for all territory are produced by IGEWE and disseminated to all stakeholders.

Under the AL-DMAP project, the second component of the project "Strengthening of Hydro-meteorological Services" there are activities conducted with this regard.

It is in the implementation phase the upgrading of entire hydro-met network through installation of an Automated Hydro meteorological network and Central data management system. The new system will bring significant improvements to the hydro-met services in Albania, but also contribute to the overall hydro-met data availability in Western Balkan countries.

Other component activities include: a) increasing data accessibility; and b) developing capacity to prepare weather forecasting products tailored to disaster management. Its is expected to improve medium-term weather forecasts to the public; measurement and publication of the accuracy and resolution of public forecasts; availability of climate

data; Albania meeting World Meteorological Organization (WMO) standards for support of the global daily forecasting effort; data sharing with other national meteorological and hydrological services in South Eastern Europe via public website.

General Directorate of Civil Emergencies has taken part in IPA Adriatic Cross-Border Cooperation Programme and in Adriaradnet project (information processing system network to support hydro-meteorological monitoring and civil protection decision) was positively evaluated. GDCE is applying for other calls for proposals on different funding lines (priorities and measures).

Work is underway to build the Disaster data Losses collection (Desinventar) for Albania with the assistance of UNISDR and CIMA foundation.

Under the call FP7-SPACE-2012-1 in support of emergency response management and risk-preparedness, GDCE is part of the IncREO project, and will benefit from highly-defined satellite-based map to improve the identification capacity of territorial vulnerabilities in order to increase the resilience of communities and nations to natural disasters.

Referring to the existing in power legal framework, it is the responsibility of the responsible levels to ensure that all stakeholders are conversant with the local and national early warning systems, necessary contacts and procedures while in the draft law on civil protection some functions such as the activation of early warning system and the responsibility of risk assessment in local level are addressed.

HFA PRIORITY 3

Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels

GDCE is currently exploring the opportunities to implementing the remaining activity of AL-DRAMP, curricula development on disaster preparedness in elementary and secondary schools. This activity is expected to be completed within the project end date of 30 June 2013.

Recently, Albania is having to deal with a various disasters and during the last few years the state of emergency is being declared. Many preventive measures are taken by responsible agencies and many preparatory work to alleviate the effects are conducted through national and international projects. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Consumer Protection together with Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration and Ministry of Interior are in the lead of these activities. Structural interventions on flood protections are made in Shkodra and Lezha (2011 -2012). For floods protection facilities in area of Shkodra for the above mentioned timeframe are invested around 12 million USD on rehabilitation of the embankment of the river Buna. Flood safety in other areas is increase, through rehabilitation and reconstruction with

high standards of safety of protective embankment of the river system network through the country.

In August 2012 it was completed (through a GFDRR grant) a Comprehensive Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study. This study will serve as a blue print for the follow-up protection investments in Drini-Buna river basin, and a basis to approach future financiers to make possible its implementation. Other projects: a)-Lake Skadar-Shkoder Integrated Ecosystem Management Project, which is a GEF-funded regional project that supports activities in both Albania and Montenegro. b)-“Identification and Implementation of Adaptation Response Measures in the Drini-Mati River Deltas”, a national project built between the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration and UNDP (GEF funded project). c)-The Dam Safety Project, supports safeguarding of major hydroelectric dams and improving management, practices. d)-The Water Resource and Irrigation Project is a project under preparation, etc.

In the EU funded projects GDCE is part of the IPA Multi-beneficiary Programmes as follows:

IPA MB 2011 in Civil Protection Cooperation, training programme which is due to end by Mid-May 2013, and to be followed by a phase II programme. IPA MB 2012 Building Resilience to Disasters in Western Balkan and Turkey, on running, and IPA MB 2013 Prevention, preparedness and response to floods in the Western Balkan and Turkey. There also have been leaflets produced by GDCE (on fire, earthquake and flood preparedness) and distributed to the most vulnerable areas.

HFA PRIORITY 4

Reduce the underlying risk factors

The Strategic Goals of the Republic of Albania in the field of environment are defined in the National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI). The current Environment and Climate Change is valid for the period 2007-2013 while the draft Environment and Climate Change for the period 2013-2020 as an integral part of the NSDI is just completed, and will be approved by mid-2013.

Sub-sector strategies:

The National Waste Policy has been prepared together with the National Waste Management Plan (NWMP), in May 2009, which were approved with DCM no 175 date 19.01.2011 “On the approval of the National Waste Strategy and National Waste Management Plan”.

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, of 2000 – the current one is being revised and updated for the period up to 2020, in line with the CBD targets for the decade 2010-2020 as the UN decade on biodiversity.

The National Water Supply and Sewerage Services Sector Strategy, 2011-2017 is recently approval with DCM No 643 date 14.09.2011 “On the approval of the National Water Supply and Sewerage Services Sector Strategy”.

Under the assistance of World Health Organization and financed by the German Government, the Ministry of Health of Albania has published the General platform on Risk Management and disaster preparedness.

In December 2012 a “Feasibility Study and Implementation Designs for the unified Emergency Number 112” was completed. GoA is currently exploring the potential financing sources for its implementation.

Component 3 of AL-DRMAP project - “Development of Building Codes”. In June 2012 the Guidelines for Adoption of EU Building codes and Eurocode 8, providing guidance on the introduction of seismically resilient construction standards were developed and published. Trainings on the Eurocodes were also held in all prefectures of Albania including representative of local government, relevant central agencies, academia, engineering community, and private sector. objective was to reduce risks from seismic activities through development of improved building codes and mechanisms for introduction of improved standards.

Component 4 of AL-DRMAP project - “Catastrophe Insurance”. This component objective was to provide access to private catastrophe risk insurance to households and small and medium enterprises (SMEs). For that it is established a Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility for South Eastern Europe (SEE CRIF), within the SEE DRMAP framework, of which Albania is now a shareholder and member. As a member of CRIF (Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility) Albania has paid is required commitment contribution fee.

HFA PRIORITY 5

Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

The National Plan on Civil Emergencies together with the law on Civil Emergencies are the main documents in Albania related to prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response. The plan covers all elements of prevention, mitigation and recovery and it suggests that all prefectures administrations and municipalities should develop their own Civil Emergency Plans.

Also the new draft law on “Civil Protection” has many references on early warning and the duty of private businesses to transmit warnings, on advisory commission of Risk Forecast and Assessment, the provision of data for planning purposes from both state and private institutions, damage and loss assessment, operational coordination, response and rebuilding damaged infrastructure etc.

In terms of strengthening of the institutional capacities, the lessening of the Albania’s vulnerability to natural and man-made disasters, through AL-DRMAP first component on Disaster Risk Management and Preparedness, several first responding capacities have been provided to local Fire and Rescue Services. Multi-purpose and forest-fire fire trucks, snowplows, excavators, first responding vehicles together with a fire ladder and

a mobile command unit were tendered on behalf of Albanian Civil Protection during the last few months.

While comparing to existing law "On Civil Emergencies" the draft law has many references as Personal and mutual training, Civil protection personnel training, training of personnel and joint exercises between the local and national levels and Civil Protection National Training Centre.

Training materials developed under UNDP project:

Fundamentals of Disaster Management in Albania (including the Disaster Management Glossary):

1. Disaster Response Planning;
2. Local Disaster Preparedness and Response;
3. Disaster Damages and Needs Assessment;
4. Coordination of Disaster Response Operations;
5. Disaster Relief Logistics and Distribution;
6. Disaster Management Trainer's Guide;
7. Design Guide for Emergency Preparedness, Desktop Simulations and Field Exercises

Pertaining the participation on trainings and drills:

Field Exercises organized by the General Staff – scenario forest fires - Gjinar, Elbasan all the Civil Protection System was engaged.

Field Exercises organized by the General Staff – scenario adverse weather conditions - Kukes all the Civil Protection System was engaged.

Field Exercises organized by IPA MB 2011 in Civil Protection Cooperation, Lot 2 IPA SIQUAKE- Slovenia. A team from different structures of Albanian Civil Protection system took part.

Field Exercises organized by IPA MB 2011 in Civil Protection Cooperation, Lot 2 IPA CROFLOODS - Croatia. A team from different structures of Albanian Civil Protection system took part.

Also many seminars, workshops and table top exercises are conducted for the main risks identified.

In terms of relationships and bilateral cooperation Albania has established bilateral agreement in field of disaster/crisis response with Italian Civil Protection, Austrian Government, Greek Ministry of Interior, and Croatian National protection and rescue directorate Ministry of Interior. The agreement with Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency is in its final phase and the MoU with Protection and Rescue Sector Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina is ready to be signed by the heads of Civil Protection Services. Agreements in process; with Montenegro Civil Security and Emergency Situations Ministry of Interior, and Macedonian Civil Protection Agency. On the regional cooperation Albania is part on the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South-Eastern Europe (DPPI SEE), Adriatic – Ionic Initiative, Civil Military Emergency Preparedness for South East Europe, Council (CMEP SEE), South Eastern Europe Simulation Network - Southeastern Europe

Simulation (SEDM – SEESIM), Black Sea Economic Cooperation and cooperation on emergency assistance and there is also an agreement between Kosovo's Emergency Management Agency, Crisis Management Centre, Republic of Macedonia and Albanian General Directorate of Civil Emergencies, on emergency and relief operations. The above mentioned agreement serves as a platform to build regional capacities in better management to civil emergencies in which the MoI and MoD from respective countries have signed a joined declaration and a program for regional cooperation in the field of crisis and emergency management is already agreed upon and expected to be supported by UNDP.

In general it can be said that the main institutions, in application of the policies of the Albanian Government, through the reforms carried out, have increased their performance. Also the cooperation of the Directorate General of Civil Emergencies with the Institute of Geoscience, Energy, Water and Environment and Albanian Geological Service, Albanian Red Cross and recently with Albanian Red Crescent has increased.

Immediate, mid-term and long-term projects

For this purpose, it was requested from communes and qark councils to develop and submit not only immediate projects, but also mid-term and long-term ones.

For 44 emergent project in the damage infrastructure and other expenses for coping the situation , the funds were cover by our government and the other part from donators. Also, are established a number of mid-term and long-term projects for the infrastructures of this area.

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