

Disaster Risk Reduction in Central Asia

Building partnerships to secure development gains



OCTOBER - DECEMBER / 2009

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Regional Consultative Meeting of disaster risk reduction partners

Fourth International ECO Conference on disaster risk management

Central Asia and Caucasus Disaster Risk Management Initiative



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Humanitarian Aid



International Strategy
ISDR
for Disaster Reduction



Dear Readers

Since 2003, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO), has been supporting Disaster Preparedness in Central Asia through five DIPECHO programmes in the region so far. To date, more than €20 million have been disbursed to enhance preparedness measures.

Due to the success of the programme and the requirements still to be covered, ECHO decided to allocate a further €7.295 million for the 6th Central Asia DIPECHO programme to be implemented during the period April 2010- September 2011.

This latest decision will continue to fund local disaster management at community level and coordination mechanisms at local, national and regional levels. It will still include awareness-raising among the general public, training and education, early warning/intervention systems,

exchange of know-how and capacity building, mitigation works and stock-building of emergency and relief items.

Despite the progress and the achievements over the past years, DIPECHO remains a relatively small programme; its success relies not only on the quality of work done by ECHO's partners, but also on the engagement of governments and local communities. Without a strong ownership by the people most directly concerned, our efforts will not be sustainable.

DIPECHO interventions are designed to be pilot operations. They are not and cannot be the sole solution to the challenges of disaster risk reduction. At their core, these DIPECHO projects demonstrate what could usefully be done, and how best to do it. Therefore, to become truly successful, the DIPECHO approach needs to be mainstreamed into local, national and regional policies. Cooperation with governmental actors in the region is of particular importance in this regard.

In this context, the publication of this magazine is very relevant as it provides considerable updated information on Disaster Risk Reduction in the region. Additionally, it also contributes to strengthening partnerships and to mobilising resources for regional DRR operations.

All in all, this will contribute to making us more efficient and better prepared to build a safer and more resilient environment in Central Asia.

Finally, I would like to thank all the DIPECHO partners who have actively contributed to the preparation of this issue by sharing their know-how with us.

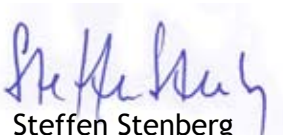

Steffen Stenberg
Operational director
DG ECHO

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Second Regional Consultative Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction in Central Asia

The second regional consultative meeting of partners under the Disaster Preparedness Program funded by the European Commission (DIPECHO) in Central Asia was held on 18-19 November, 2009 in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan). The event was organized upon the initiative of Central Asian Office of the European Commission Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) and the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic with support from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Kyrgyzstan.

The conference was attended by representatives of Ministries and Committees for Emergency Situations of the Central Asian countries, researchers and experts in disaster risk reduction as well as officers of the UN agencies and international organizations and staff of local non-governmental organizations from all the five republics of the region. Involvement of such a wide

range of stakeholders contributed to establishment of a meaningful dialogue, exchange of information and experience and strengthening of regional cooperation.

In his opening address, Norbert Joustens, Head of the European Delegation in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan pointed out: “the countries of the region are prone to various natural disasters that undermine economies of the republics and bring down their development capacity. The European Commission provides assistance within its powers to Central Asia to respond to natural disasters and for their timely prevention”.

The Emergency Situations Minister of Kyrgyzstan, Kamchibek Tashiev indicated that “the DIPECHO program constitutes a unique platform for taking important decisions regarding response to and prevention of natural and man-made disasters in the republic. The main focus

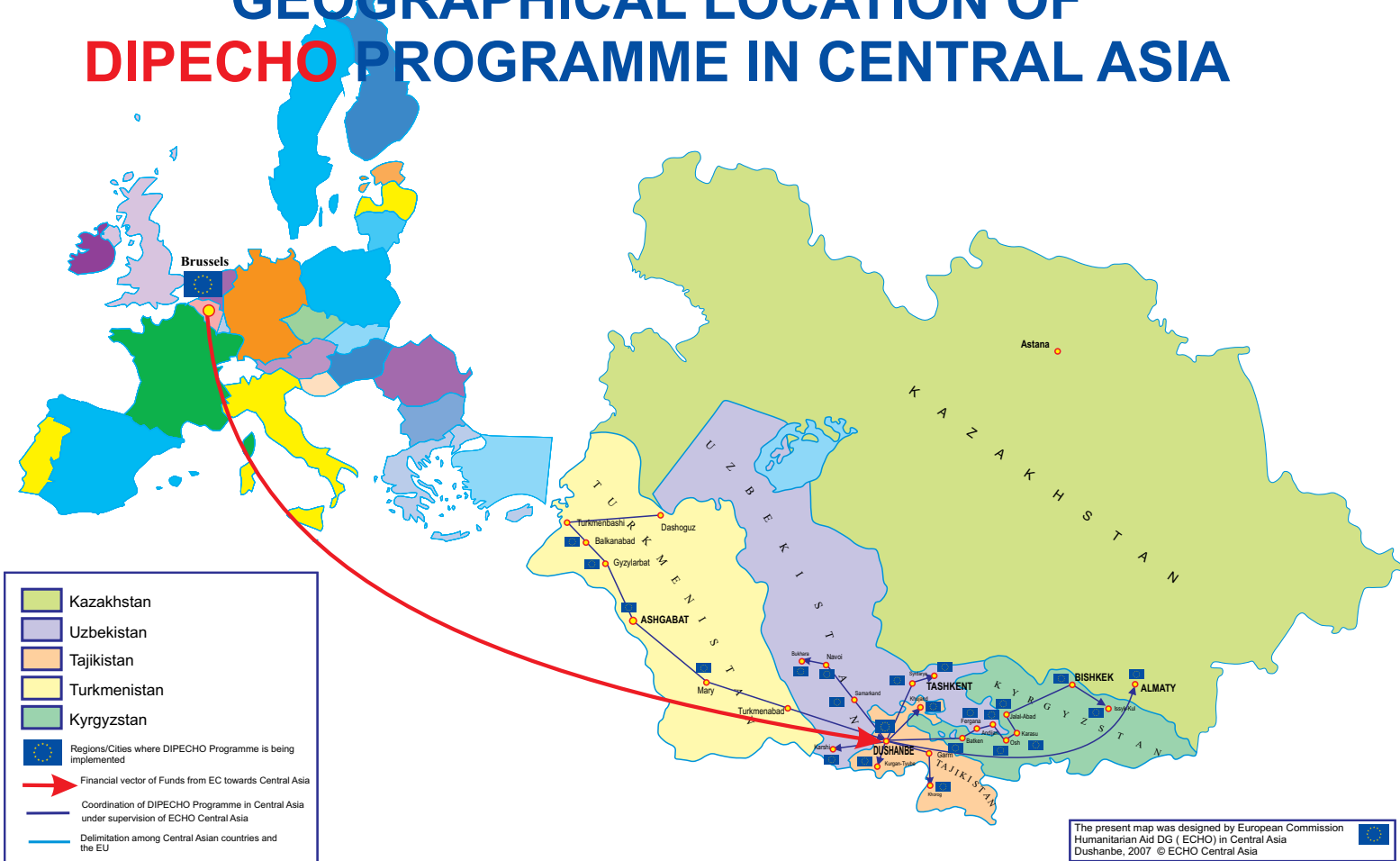


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Central Asia Office

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF DIPECHO PROGRAMME IN CENTRAL ASIA



of the program is aimed at the southern districts which are the most vulnerable.”

“The DIPECHO program as distinct from projects of many other organizations brings tangible practical results. We are happy to cooperate with that program and express our gratitude to ECHO for their invariable support” - he added.

To-date a certain progress has been made in the countries of the region with regard to coordination of activities carried out by different organizations involved in disaster risk reduction. And although the number of natural disasters in the region has been rising the measures taken by DIPECHO partners promote disaster resilience of the most vulnerable communities living in high-risk areas.

Martin Landgraf, Assistant to the Operational Director of ECHO,

addressing the meeting participants said: “... success of DIPECHO program is contingent on the quality of work of all partners involved, including local authorities. Different evaluations of work done under DIPECHO emphasize that the program is rather dynamic but they also indicate the need to improve its review process”.

Mr. Talaibek Temiraliyev (Head of International Relations and Investment Department under the Ministry of Emergencies of Kyrgyzstan) indicated that the consultative meeting was of vital importance for the entire Central Asian region. He also reminded the participants that the event was organized as a follow-up to the first regional meeting of DIPECHO partners which took place in Dushanbe in 2007. “The results of our work will form the basis for all partners that will be involved in disaster risk reduction activities in the region in the two years to come” - he said.



Janna Salieva representing IOM in Kyrgyzstan, made a presentation on the contribution of DIPECHO V program in disaster risk reduction in Kyrgyzstan. Most of the projects were implemented in the south of the country where communities are exposed to various hazards.

All project activities are coordinated with the MoES to avoid duplication of activities.

“DIPECHO program is in line with the Country Development Strategy for 2009-2011. The key expected outcome is ensuring safety of population, improvement of performance of the monitoring, forecasting and early warning system” - she added.

Describing the situation with the implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action in the region Goulsara Pulatova, Head of UNISDR sub-regional office for Central Asia, informed the participants that “... all countries of the region except Turkmenistan signed HFA and have developed national disaster risk reduction strategies. Tajikistan is also currently finalizing its DRM strategy.”

A separate session of the meeting was devoted to activities of national disaster risk reduction platforms in countries of the region. Representatives of official government agencies for disaster management from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan shared with the participants information about development of national platforms, corresponding legislation and other disaster preparedness and response mechanisms in their respective countries.

Thus, for example, a representative of the Ministry for Emergency Situations and Defense of the Republic of Uzbekistan reported that “... there is a program in place in Uzbekistan aimed at establishment of regional and local communication and warning systems for the eventuality of a pending or developing emergency. There is also a program for provision of modern search-and-rescue

Thierry Bertouille, ECHO Desk Officer for Central Asia, indicated: “the 6th Central Asian DIPECHO programme will pay a particular attention to the following topics: coordination mechanisms, advocacy of public-private partnership, cross-cutting issue, integration of climate change into DRR operations and mainstreaming DRR in development actions.”

During thematic and plenary sessions presentations were made about the role of DIPECHO in Central Asia and implementation of priorities set forth in the Hyogo Framework for Action.

Madina Aliberdyeva, an OXFAM representative, explained that DIPECHO V program was instrumental in defining disaster risk reduction priorities, improving communities' awareness about the existing hazards, establishing rural emergency management bodies, disaster preparedness and response teams and volunteer rescue groups. Besides, DIPECHO V program contributed to development of coordination with government agencies in the sphere of emergency response.”

equipment and gear and construction of training facilities in the Rescuers' Development and Professional Upgrading Center under the MoES".

Syrym Gabbasov, director of the department for strategic planning, information and analytical work, science and new technologies under the MoES of Kazakhstan gave a presentation on the Kazakhstan Concept for prevention of and response to man-made and natural disasters that was approved by the President of the country.

During the meeting, participants also discussed some other subjects

such as the existing gaps in disaster risk management in the region, link with climate change and adaptation thereto, introduction of disaster risk reduction in development planning and risk assessment.

The Conference provided its participants an excellent opportunity to have an overview of results achieved within DIPECHO program, define priority areas and develop recommendations for the new 6th Dipecho programme which will begin its operations in April 2010.

Overview of recommendations

- *mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in Government strategy as an important approach to scale up the implementation of the main goals of the Hyogo Framework for Action for building the resilience of the population at all levels*
- *to set-up a regional working group with various experts from different sectors of activities in order to work on the intervention of public and private partnership and to deliver practical outputs for Central Asia.*
- *to work out concrete approaches on how to address climate change adaptation in DRR through studies and the establishment of experts network taking into account the social economic specificity of each country.*
- *to scale-up and to improve the coordination of all stakeholders involved in DRR and cross border projects. An experts regional working group should be established in order to assess existing coordination mechanisms in DRR in Central Asian States (at the local, national, and regional levels) and to formulate recommendations*
- *to promote the use of education and knowledge as vector to create awareness and build the resilience of the population exposed to natural hazards*

DIPECHO aid for Central Asia in figures

From 2003 to 2009, the total amount of assistance provided to Central Asian countries constituted Euro 22.3 million (i.e. about 3,2 million per year). The total number of DIPECHO beneficiaries exceeded 3.65 million persons (with 2 million in Tajikistan alone). More than 1.2 thousand rescue teams were trained (700 of them in Tajikistan) and over 1,850 training events were organized in schools (700 of them in Tajikistan). DIPECHO program also funded implementation of 300 practical projects for disaster risk reduction (220 of those in Tajikistan).

Central Asia and Caucasus Disaster Risk Management Initiative

Why it is important for our regions

The region of Central Asia and the Caucasus (CAC) is highly vulnerable to natural disasters. Occurrence of natural hazards in all eight countries of the two sub-regions is very high - substantial parts of the territory are covered by mountains and practically all natural hazards, such as earthquakes, landslides, debris flows, avalanches, floods and droughts are present there. Earthquakes are the most dangerous of them. They destroy buildings and infrastructure and result in secondary events such as landslides, rock-falls, and avalanches. The region can provide compelling evidence for this: destructive earthquakes in Almaty (Kazakhstan, 1887, 1911), Ashgabat (Turkmenistan, 1948), Baku (Azerbaijan, 2000), Spitak (Armenia, 1989) and Tashkent (Uzbekistan, 1966), as well as a relatively smaller earthquakes such as in Gissar (Tajikistan, 1989) when most of casualties were caused by landslides, debris flows and rock-falls. In all probability, devastating earthquakes can be expected in any of the Region's countries in the future.

Climate change is expected to exacerbate natural disasters caused by hydro-meteorological conditions, with associated

damages particularly impacting the rural economy. The region is also exposed to a range a man-made disasters, such as industrial accidents, hazardous mine tailings entering downstream water bodies, and potential downstream impacts resulting from the operation of large water reservoirs.

Both regions have limited financial resources and physical resilience. Central Asia and Caucasus governments are fiscally unprepared to deal with



Spitak, after the earthquake in 1989.
Photo: RIA News Agency

catastrophic losses as a result of possible natural disasters. Disasters lead to social, economic and environmental losses.

Disasters tend to hit the poorest in the society most. This group has little or no financial and physical resilience, and therefore, has to struggle to rebuild their lives, livelihoods and assets in the aftermath of a disaster.

Global Trends

The frequency and impact of disasters have been rising dramatically worldwide since the early twentieth century, and with a more than 800 per cent increase over the last 40 years. Various studies underline the fact that disasters erode gains from poverty reduction and socio-economic development.

This trend can also be observed in Central Asia and the Caucasus and therefore disaster risk reduction must be seen as a key component of development strategies in these countries. Moreover the on-going climate change exacerbates the situation.

Disaster response has traditionally been stronger in the countries of the former Soviet Union than disaster risk reduction. Of most importance today is the issue of monitoring, forecasting and early-warning of natural and man-made disasters. Unfortunately, preventive measures still do not have the appropriate importance for many countries that still follow response oriented disaster reduction mechanisms.



A meteostation on Fedchenko glacier.
Photo: Tajikglavgidromet

However, there seems to be a gradual shift from solely disaster response to investing in disaster risk reduction. All eight countries of the region participated in the Second World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, in January 2005 and committed to take on the priorities of action outlined in the Hyogo Framework for Action. The HFA and a 10-year plan to make the world safer from the impact of natural hazards were adopted by 168 governments.

Main goals and objectives:

Within the context of the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR), the World Bank and the UNISDR Secretariat in collaboration with international partners initiated a Central Asia and Caucasus Disaster Risk Management Initiative (CAC DRMI), which incorporates three focus areas:

(i) coordination of disaster mitigation, preparedness, and response;

(ii) financing of disaster losses, reconstruction and recovery, and disaster risk transfer instruments such as catastrophe insurance and weather derivatives, and

(iii) hydro-meteorological forecasting, data sharing and early warning.

This Initiative can form the foundation for regional and country specific investment priorities in the area of early warning, disaster risk reduction and financing.

Partners

The initiative is coordinated by the World Bank, the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) Secretariat, and (for Hydromet component) the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), under the CAREC umbrella. It is financed by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) and other interested donors.

The Initiative builds on the level of cooperation that already exists in the region, and will complement and consolidate activities of the international finance institutions (IFIs) to promote more effective disaster mitigation, preparedness and response.

Key Activities

The CAC Disaster Risk Management Initiative includes three main components as per below.

Disaster Mitigation, Preparedness and Response

The objective of this component is to strengthen the capacity and promote a coordinated approach to disaster preparedness and response in the countries of the region. This work includes assessment of risks, vulnerability and existing capacities as well as identification of needs and promotion of cooperation.

As of today, a Risk Assessment Desk Review has already been completed to provide a simplified quantitative risk assessment and determine the social and economic loss potentials and the likelihood of occurrence of different hazards at country and regional levels.

Disaster Financing and Risk Transfer

The objectives of this component is to assist the Region's countries in developing disaster risk financing and risk transfer mechanisms to reduce the burden on government budgets and on the population's assets, and promote the development of affordable insurance to cover losses. A particular focus will be placed on identification and development

Fighting avalanches, Kyrgyzstan.
Photo: MoES, Kyrgyzstan



of key measures for the protection of population's assets, especially in rural areas. The insurance system, guaranteed and supported by strong legislation would eventually contribute to the reduction of vulnerability and thus to poverty reduction.

A Disaster Risk Financing Options Study was completed in 2009. The study included an assessment of current practices to finance damages, the state of the current private insurance market in providing catastrophe insurance, and the viability of creating a regional disaster insurance mechanism through risk pooling.

Hydrometeorological service

The objective of the component is to strengthen hydromet services, data sharing and early warning system. This will be achieved through undertaking feasibility assessment of the existing data sharing procedures and identifying the needs, both in capacity terms as well as equipment. The focus will be placed on identifying the economic benefits that could be achieved by an enhancement in weather forecasting. Once this is completed, investments priorities can be identified, to enable the establishment of modern and coordinated weather forecasting in Central Asia and Caucasus.

The Hydromet Regional Assessment took place in March-April 2009, through a joint mission composed of specialists from UNISDR, WMO, the Finnish Meteorological Institute and the World Bank.

Donor workshop in Tashkent

On November 10-12, 2009, a donor workshop entitled "Improving

weather, climate and hydrological service delivery and reducing vulnerability to disasters in Central Asia and Caucasus" took place in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, with over 100 participants from eight countries of the CAC region and numerous national, international and government and donor organizations. The findings and recommendations of the donor workshop will allow the development of the Central Asia and Caucasus Disaster Risk Management Programme.

WMO and natural hazards

Natural hazards are severe and extreme weather and climate events that occur naturally in all parts of the world, although some regions are more vulnerable to certain hazards than others. Natural hazards become natural disasters when people's lives and livelihoods are destroyed. Human and material losses caused by natural disasters are a major obstacle to sustainable development. By issuing accurate forecasts and warnings in a form that is readily understood and by educating people how to prepare against such hazards, before they become disasters, lives and property can be protected.

Natural hazards occur across different time and area scales and each is in some way unique. Tornadoes and flash floods are short-lived, violent events, affecting a relatively small area. Others, such as droughts, develop slowly, but can affect most of a continent and entire populations for months or even years.

WMO emphasis on disaster risk reduction: one dollar invested in disaster preparedness can prevent seven dollars' worth of disaster-related economic losses—a considerable return on investment.

WMO's objective is to reduce by 50 per cent, by 2019, the associated 10-year average fatality of the period 1994-2003 for weather-, climate- and water-related natural disasters.



Safer communities



Act
Central Asia



Local communities are most vulnerable to various natural disasters. At present, many residents of remote communities do not have sufficient information about the hazards threatening their area and do not have even basic skills and knowledge required to ensure effective response to natural disasters. Often enough, villages have no emergency response plans and first aid equipment.

In October 2008, the Youth Environmental Center with support from Act Central Asia and within the framework of DIPECHO-V project funded by the European Commission launched its emergency preparedness and response program. The main goal of the project was to establish 4 emergency coordination centers and organize training of 6 volunteer rapid response and rescue teams.

During the period of the project implementation, the Youth Environmental Center established four public centers in Aivaj and Sayed jamoats of Shaartuz district, Komsomol jamoat of Nosiri Khisrav district and Nosiri Khisrav jamoat of Kabodiyon district. All the centers were provided with the tools and equipment necessary to respond to emergencies and administer first medical aid.

A team of volunteer rescuers comprising 10-12 persons was established in each public center of the above jamoats. Establishment of these teams has become possible due to the support from leaders and workers of the jamoats as well as local staff of the Emergency Committee. The volunteer team members are local community residents, professionals in different fields and heads of dehkan farms. Whenever an emergency strikes, the groups and coordinators come under the command of the emergency authorities within the local executive bodies.

The established volunteer teams are responsible for specific actions related to emergency response as well as continuous monitoring of emergency risks at the local level. The volunteer team in Nosiri Khisrav district has already received the first experience of participation in a mudflow response operation which took place in May 2009 in Firuza jamoat of Nosiri Khisrav district.

Within the framework of its project the Youth Environmental Center signed a memorandum of cooperation with the State Committee for Emergencies and Civil Defense according to which the Committee experts trained the established volunteer teams and conducted emergency response drills for them to strengthen their capacity in organization and implementation of rescue work. Local emergency response plans and maps of risk zones were also developed with support from the Emergency Committee staff.

Another project component was aimed at carrying out practical activities to reduce disaster risks and mitigate disaster consequences in areas most prone to natural disasters. Three bridges were repaired in conjunction with the newly established coordination centers and with immediate support from local authorities of Shaartuz, Nosiri Khisrav and Kabodiyon districts. In Kabodiyon district, mudflow flumes were rehabilitated and banks of Chilu Chor Chashma canal were reinforced. The ground water control systems was cleaned up in Shaartuz district and 2 nurseries for fast-growing trees were established to restore windbreak belts in the area.

Progress of mitigation activities
Photo: Youth Ecological Centre



Learning to reduce risks of natural disasters

Caritas-Switzerland continues implementation of the second phase of its Project for disaster risk management in Muminobod district of Khatlon region of Tajikistan. The project supported by the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency is aimed at promotion and development of cooperation between concerned government authorities and civil society institutions. Innovative risk assessment tools and methods of integration of disaster risk reduction in overall management system are to be introduced under the project. Completion of the second stage of the project is envisaged in March 2010.



The main goal of the project is reduction of risks of natural disasters in communities through introduction of integrated risk management. Caritas-Switzerland is rendering significant support in capacity building of local administrations, civil society institutes and population in general which should ultimately contribute to sustainable development of the district and improvement of safety.

The geographic location of Muminobod district is rather typical. The situation in terms of natural disasters is closely related to environmental conditions and affects negatively local community development. Deforestation, excessive land use and overgrazing on watersheds play a major role in destabilization of the environment. The most vulnerable groups of society are directly dependent on access to ecosystems and their services. This is why natural disaster management requires an integrated approach that is not limited just to overcoming the emerging hazards and their impacts. Despite the apparently growing awareness of population and local government authorities in risk zones, their weak financial resources are still insufficient to address the problems on the required scale.

This is why the main objectives of the project comprise:

- Development of a disaster risk management plan and its incorporation in the district (Muminobod) development strategy;
- Capacity building of the local administration, private sector and civil society to combat natural disasters;
- Reduction of soil erosion through integrated watershed management;
- Introduction of the risk assessment tool at the regional and national level. The tool can be used to assess natural risks by different NGO's and the Committee for Emergency Situations and Civil Defense.

Detailed information at: www.caritas.ch

The contribution of the local community and government bodies in these activities constituted 40% of the total expenditures.

To ensure sustainability of the established volunteer rescue teams and centers the Youth Environmental Center is focusing on integration of disaster risk reduction issues in programs aimed at community development and improvement of living standards of the local population. "Being aware of the direct relationship between the rational use of natural

resources and natural disasters we conduct training workshops, introduce modern soil management practices, promote development of local businesses, introduce equipment using renewable energy sources and create seed stocks" - says Rahim Obidov, project manager and coordinator of the emergency program of the Youth Environmental Center.

For more detailed information please refer to: www.ecocentre.tj



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CARITAS
SCHWEIZ
SUISSE
SVIZZERA
SVERIGE

Schools and communities prepared for emergencies



Training for volunteer rescuers
Photo: NRCST

The National Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan with the support from the European Commission Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and in conjunction with the Netherlands Red Cross has been engaged for one and a half years in work aimed at reducing the impact of natural disasters on vulnerable population under DIPECHO-V program. The main goal of the project was to reduce vulnerability of population through training of local organizations and communities living in high risk zones to respond adequately to emergency situations. The project implemented by the Red Crescent Society of Turkmenistan (NRCST) covered virtually all regions of the republic.

The primary objective of the project was to conduct educational and information campaigns to build awareness about rules of behaviour during emergencies and first aid techniques. Thus, workshops on disaster risk reduction were organized for students and teachers. Forty eight first aid teams (10 persons in each) were established. Drawing and essay contests were held for students under the motto "Your life is in your own hands". The contest winners were awarded prizes and certificates of appreciation whereas 6 best

works in each category were submitted to the all-country stage of the contest.

NRCST developed, adapted and translated into the Turkmen language a whole series of training manuals and modules for training workshops. Information and education materials were disseminated to the target groups of the project. Consultations in disaster risk reduction issues were organized for non-governmental organizations, officials and other stakeholders. The developed printed matter and information posters issued under the program proved to be a success both with population and local governments.

Action plans for emergency preparedness and response were updated in selected local communities. 96 volunteer rescue teams were established. Its members took part in respective workshops where they were trained in correct rules of behavior before, during and after earthquakes and also in provision of paramedical first aid (including psychological counseling). Upon completion of the workshops the teams took part in first aid and emergency response competitions that were organized throughout the country. Thereafter the winning teams participated in the national competitions conducted in the capital of Turkmenistan. The team that won the national competition went to the regional competition held in late September in Tajikistan.

Training courses in emergency preparedness and response were also conducted for oil and construction companies. The training workshops involved participation of experts from concerned government agencies and NRCST trainers.

A particular focus was also given to capacity building of staff and volunteers of the National Red Crescent Society itself. The project staff took part in the



first aid training workshop held in Bishkek and received standard international certificates. NRCST itself took vigorous steps to improve its monitoring system and transparency of its activities. The existing database of volunteers and trainers was updated. Three regional workshops and visits to cross-border areas of neighboring countries involving participation of NRCST volunteers and staff were organized to exchange experience, methodologies and training materials.

The project “Emergency preparedness of schools and communities in Turkmenistan” was implemented with active involvement of government authorities, school administrations and local population. It was this kind of involvement of all stakeholders that formed the basis for achieving successful and fruitful results.

*Timur Idrisov,
based on NRCS Turkmenistan materials*

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE COMPETITIONS

Emergency preparedness and response team of the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RCST) won the second place at the regional teams competition which took place on 25-26 September 2009 within the framework of the project “Strengthening Capacities of the Communities and Schools for Emergency Preparedness and Response in Central Asia”. Turkmenistan team won the first place.



Representatives from regional administration bodies, regional department of the Committee for Emergency Situations, as well as REACT member partners from Sughd Oblast participated in the opening ceremony. The competition revealed the level of theoretical knowledge and practical skills of the participants on rendering first aid, the teams' skills on performing under extreme conditions and their ability to reduce the possible risks during natural disasters. Upon completion of the competition, the participants were awarded valuable prizes.

Funded by the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO), the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan (RSCT) and the Netherlands Red Cross jointly implement the fifth phase of the programme on strengthening the capacities of communities and schools for emergency preparedness and response in Central Asia (DIPECHO-V) in Sughd Oblast. The project is implemented in 8 districts and Khujand city, in 48 Jamoats and 118 schools covering 8,850 schoolchildren.

Source: Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan

Acting together for disaster resilience

Improvement of civil defense training courses under the Ministry of Emergencies of the Kyrgyz Republic.

To facilitate the study of issues pertaining to emergency management in Kyrgyzstan there was a pressing need to establish an integrated training center that would provide training and consultative services, conduct studies and prepare respective publications.

The center would work with non-governmental organizations, communities and government agencies in different regions to strengthen their capacity in disaster preparedness and mitigation of emergency situations.

To address this issue the mission of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the Kyrgyz Republic implemented the project for modernization of the

Central Civil Defense Training Facility under the MoES of KR within the framework of DIPECHO-V program and with financial support from the Swiss Cooperation Office. IOM equipped the training facility with modern technical aids which are in conformity with international standards and also provided it with the necessary reference, didactic and methodological materials and manuals.

Students of the training center have received additional opportunities of learning the basics of natural disaster preparedness, emergency response, first aid skills, protection and saving of human lives. Access to the services provided by the center is granted to international organizations, non-governmental agencies and other partners wishing to take part in and conduct training workshops in the sphere of emergency preparedness.





Civic defense courses
at MoES, Kyrgyzstan
Photo: IOM

Cooperation with NGOs that are members of the IOM network

The non-governmental sector of Kyrgyzstan has been actively developing and has become a tangible public force and an important resource. Ever from the beginning of its activities in Kyrgyzstan IOM has focused on support to non-governmental organizations through training programs to develop NGO capacity and also through promotion of intersectoral interaction and granting support to NGOs for project implementation in various areas.

Non-governmental organizations play a key role in IOM activities. Specifically, the information campaign in communities within DIPECHO projects is implemented by partner-NGOs. The NGOs conduct various information campaigns on emergency preparedness, organize workshops and training events for local community activists, university and secondary school teachers, representatives of government authorities and local self-governance bodies. At present, the NGO network comprises 35 permanent members and covers all regions of the republic.

Establishment of a coordination mechanism between MoES and academic institutions in the sphere of emergency prevention and response

With support from the IOM a scientific and technical council was established in Kyrgyzstan to improve the mechanism

of coordination between the Ministry of Emergency Situations, academic institutions and other interested agencies working in the sphere of response to and prevention of emergency situations of natural and man-made origin. Responsibilities of the Scientific and Technical Council comprise:

- improving the mechanism of coordination between the Ministry of Emergency Situations, academic institutions and other interested agencies working in the sphere of response to and prevention of emergency situations of natural and man-made origin;
- hearing and review of scientific and technical recommendations made by relevant governmental academic institutions and other outsourced organization on issues pertaining to prevention of and response to emergency situations of natural and man-made origin;
- participation in organization and implementation of joint scientific and technical studies aimed at protection of territories, prevention of environmental accidents including those of transboundary nature with involvement of interested stakeholders;
- promotion of cooperation and interaction with international organizations, financial institutions and donor-countries working on issues of emergency management.



First aid training
Photo: IOM

Mountain communities and natural disasters



Focus Humanitarian Assistance (FOCUS) is an international agency working in the sphere of emergency response and natural disaster risk reduction.

Under DIPECHO-V program, FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance successfully completed its Project for Training of Disaster Resilient Communities in High Mountain Areas which received support from the European Commission Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid.

The project was aimed at building awareness of disaster preparedness and building capacity of local communities. It was implemented with the goal of reducing vulnerability of communities and building their capacity to withstand local hazards.

41 local communities in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region of Tajikistan and four frontier districts of Northern Afghanistan were covered by the project activities. FOCUS in conjunction with local authorities, divisions of the Committee for Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (CoES) and with direct involvement of local population implemented 18 projects aimed at improvement of structural safety of infrastructure and establishment of new physical protection facilities including mudflow flumes, bank protection structures, etc.

Over 5,000 children and teachers from 23 local schools in the districts covered by the project attended disaster preparedness workshops and training sessions. To strengthen capacity of local

authorities and CoES staff in the area of emergency assessment, monitoring and response, FOCUS experts organized specialized training workshops that were attended by 120 people. A specialized training course in hazard, vulnerability and risk assessment was organized with the purpose of professional development of geologists and other scientific workers.

Within the framework of an information campaign to build population awareness about hazards and disaster risk reduction measures in GBAO, FOCUS disseminated over 5,300 booklets and brochures. The materials were disseminated (based on a preliminary agreement) through 8 local offices and service centers of Indigo mobile operator. Moreover, FOCUS has actively cooperated with mass media.

Thus, about 1,500 copies of booklets on Emergency Preparedness were disseminated through local newspapers in GBAO, whereas the local TV channel in Khorog has shown the video film "Natural disasters - ways to become aware and get prepared".

From the time of its establishment in Tajikistan in 1998, FOCUS has provided assistance in 40 natural disasters and provided \$US500,000 to the affected communities. FOCUS projects in education, planning and disaster risk reduction have covered about 100,000 people.

For more information please refer to:
www.akdn.org/focus



Bridge construction
Photo: FOCUS

Fourth International ECO Conference on disaster risk management



At plenary sessions
Photo: N. Qalandarov

The Fourth International ECO Conference on Disaster Risk Management took place in early October in Dushanbe. The meeting was organized by the Committee for Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, Economic Cooperation Organization and United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) with financial support from the European Commission Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid (DG-ECHO) and ECO.

The Forum brought together delegates from the Islamic State of Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Tajikistan and Republic of Uzbekistan as well as representatives of international and regional organizations and UN agencies.

The conference provided the participating experts an excellent opportunity to discuss issues of disaster risk reduction in the region as well as prospects of further development of cooperation and capacity building.

Disaster risk

The ECO region is highly vulnerable since all the countries located therein are prone to various disasters that significantly impede their economic development. This issue of natural disasters requires close attention and effective action. Heads of ECO member-states have repeatedly emphasized the need to promote regional cooperation in the field of disaster management.

In his opening remarks at the Conference the ECO Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Hassan Taherian, said that: "...the aim of holding such Conferences is to provide opportunity to share experiences, lessons learned and facilitate discussion regarding development of policy guidance on disaster risk reduction. This requires collective cooperation and comprehensive efforts of all countries of the ECO region."

Disasters carry enormous destructive force which can undermine the very basics of development. Whenever a disaster occurs there is never enough funds for reconstruction and rehabilitation. This is why investment in disaster prevention and mitigation must become an integral part of emergency management. The frequency of disasters is on the rise and therefore regional and international cooperation and support are of vital importance.

Salvano Briceno, Director of UNISDR Secretariat, indicated that involvement in and support of the regional activities on the part of governments of ECO member-states was becoming an essential factor in implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action. "...there was a need to sustain and improve preparedness for effective response and early warning capacities to reach the communities. It is essential to continue working together to maintain the momentum and drive the global movement for disaster risk reduction towards a safer world" - emphasized Salvano Briceno.



Joint measures to address problems and overcome natural hazards

The heads of country delegations presented at the conference the institutional structure of disaster management in their respective countries and shared the existing experiences in emergency response and disaster risk reduction measures. They reaffirmed their commitments to strengthen cooperation in disaster management and highlighted the need to establish a regional Trust Fund for Disaster Risk Management.

A number of regional initiatives were presented at the Conference. Thus, Ms. Miki Kodama, a senior researcher of the Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC) told the participants about international activities of the Center which was established in Kobe, Hyogo prefecture, in 1998. She informed the conference that ADRC was interested in providing support to disaster risk reduction activities in Central Asia. "Our Center would be happy to provide programmes for further strengthening the disaster risk management capacity in ECO region" - Miki Kadama said.

Mr. Sushil Gupta, General Manager, Risk Modeling and Insurance at Risk Management Solutions Internationals (RMSI), presented the findings and recommendations of Central Asia and Caucasus Disaster Risk Management Initiative (CACDRMI). The initiative came as a result of cooperation between Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction, the World Bank and UNISDR, in partnership with World Meteorological Organization.

"The key objective of this initiative was to prepare a simplified quantitative risk assessment to determine the social and economic loss potential and the likelihood of occurrence of different hazards on country, sub-regional and regional levels with focus on natural and man-made hazards" - noted Mr. Gupta.

Climate change impact on risks and poverty

Disaster risk will only be reduced and the HFA achieved if countries successfully address the underlying drivers of risk, such as poor urban governance, ecosystem

decline and vulnerable rural livelihoods. Mr. Parveen Pradeshi, Head, Regional Coordination, UNISDR, Geneva, pointed out that: "...if these drivers are not addressed, climate change will lead to dramatic increases in disaster risk and associated poverty outcomes in developing countries".

Risk reduction needs to be at the centre of the political agenda, backed by dedicated resources in the national budget and leadership at the highest levels of government. Overarching policy frameworks should align efforts in poverty reduction, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction both nationally and internationally. This is why government-civil society partnerships and cooperation are essential to ensure sustainability, relevance and impact on the ground.



Tajikistan

The State Commission for Emergencies which is the Supreme Coordinating Authority on issues pertaining to disaster management has been established in Tajikistan. The commission identifies priorities in respective areas and coordinates distribution of funding allocated for disaster management activities.



The Committee for Emergencies and Civil Defense of RT promotes coordination and cooperation with international, bilateral and local organizations. Back in 2001, to streamline coordination of emergency response the REACT group was established which is headed by the Committee for Emergency Situations with support from the UNDP Disaster Risk Management Program. The group comprises over 70 members representing international and local organization working in the sphere of disaster management in the country.

Some progress has been achieved in Tajikistan in setting up communication and early warning systems with assistance from international organizations and donors. A state of the art monitoring and early warning system installed on Lake Sarez and in downstream settlements is a good step towards reducing vulnerability of the population and improvement of the Committee's monitoring capacity.

These and some other important facts were presented by Major General Haibullo Latipov, Chairman of the Committee for Emergency Situations and Civil Defense of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Progress of Global Campaigns and International Partner Initiatives

The Conference participants paid a particular attention to the progress of international initiatives and campaigns aimed at ensuring school and hospital safety.

“Schools should be a safe haven for children but we have seen schools that have turned into a devil trap for children. Thousands of children get killed as a result of natural disasters”- said Mr. Asim Rehman, Regional DRR Specialist, UNICEF. “The subject of Disaster Risk Reduction should be included into school curriculum and specialized courses on disaster risk reduction and preparedness should be developed. It is essential to ensure structural safety of school buildings, develop hazard maps and provide schools with necessary equipment for emergency response” - he added.

Mr. Alireza Mehdizadeh, Head of the Department for Retrofitting and Mobilization of Schools of the Islamic Republic of Iran, pointed out in his presentation that “the process of ensuring school safety was started in Iran in the

year 2001. By 2004, assessment of all schools in the country was completed.” He mentioned that since there is a great concern regarding high risk of schools, all member states should make the School Earthquake Safety Initiative a part of their National DRR Programmes. “Iran is ready to share its experience with other countries”, - added Mr. Mehdizadeh.

A safe hospital will not collapse in disasters and will continue to provide services when they are most needed. To ensure that our hospitals and health facilities are safe from disasters a strong commitment is needed from the highest political level, as well as support and contribution from all sectors of society.

“Efforts are underway to include Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction into Health strategy for Tajikistan.” - reported Ms. Khusniya Dordabekova, DIPECHO project coordinator from WHO. She mentioned that the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (Geneva, 2009) recommended adopting comprehensive national multi-sectoral Safe Hospital policies and programmes.

Based on results of the discussions the participants adopted a number of recommendations that will be circulated to governments of the ECO member-states and also respective agencies and institutions dealing with issues of disaster risk reduction and emergency management.

Conference recommendations:

1. One of the ECO member states should be named as a focal point to ensure effective follow-up on the recommendations of the present and previous ECO Conferences on the subject.
2. School safety must be ensured by 2015 which is the end of HFA implementation. By that time Member States will try to have seismic assessment of all schools in the ECO region and also endeavour to retrofitting of these schools.
3. There is a need for allocation of funding to develop a strategy for disaster prevention and recovery.



Afghanistan

Natural disasters such as hurricanes, heavy rains, floods, droughts and landslides are becoming more frequent and severe as a result of climate change. All initiatives aimed at addressing the problem of climate change and natural disasters must be community oriented. Poor and vulnerable groups of population are also the most exposed to negative impacts of climate change.

It is essential to develop a global action plan to deal with the problems related to climate change and disaster risk reduction. Climate change adaptation means changes

in people's livelihoods and natural ecosystems so that they could better cope with the actual and expected impacts of climate change. It would reduce vulnerability, reduce potential damages and help coping with the consequences of natural disasters.



Dr. Abdul Matin Adrak, Head of National Disaster Management Authority of Afghanistan.

There is a need for allocation of budget for the national DRR plans.

4. In the subsequent Conferences related to disaster risk management, each member states' experts from the planning and budget sections may also be invited.
5. Each Member State may consider allocating a special budget to tackle issues related to the climate change.
6. Member States may have legal negotiations to encourage member states to improve implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action
7. A draft strategy for regional cooperation on disaster risk management may be prepared and circulated to Member States.
8. Member States may consider establishing an ECO Fund for disaster risk management.
9. Member States may consider becoming full members of INSARAG.
10. Donors may consider providing incentives for good progress in implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action and disaster risk reduction in ECO countries by way of allocation of additional funding.
11. The relevant National Offices of Member States should collaborate with concerned international agencies.
12. High level participation in the subsequent conferences related to disaster risk management may be adhered to.
13. Member States should have seismic monitoring systems.

Shahodat Saibnazarova,
Timur Idrisov

Kazakhstan

"The National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction has been already functioning in Kazakhstan. It has become the key authority for prevention and liquidation of natural and technogenic emergencies as well as betterment of the state control system. The national platform was established with a special focus on provisions of the State System for Emergency Prevention and Liquidation (SSEPL). Moreover, safety of citizens is one of the main priorities of the long-term Development Strategy titled "Kazakhstan 2030".

There are also some difficulties. The system of National Emergency Monitoring, including land-space control is insufficiently developed in the country which causes problems in early forecasting and detection of natural hazards as well as taking timely measures for their liquidation."

- said Alexander Fedorenko, Head of Prevention Department, Ministry of Emergencies of the Republic of Kazakhstan.



Iran

"According to global estimates, Iran is placed on the list of top ten countries facing disasters among the developing countries. Iran was among the first countries to establish an executive Secretariat to follow the implementation of the HFA at a national level. Iran was also one of the first countries that created its national platform (DRNP) on disaster risk reduction back in February 2005.

This mechanism works under the supervision of the National Disaster Management Organization (NDMO) of the Ministry of Interior. It is considered a multi-sectoral National Platform, with designated responsibilities at national and local level to facilitate coordination between different stakeholders."

- reported Mr. Hassan Azadeh, Senior Expert, Executive Secretariat of the HFA and Iranian National Platform of the Islamic Republic of Iran.



Natural disasters and climate change in Tajikistan



Subsidence of Fedchenko glacier, Pamirs
Photo: V. Novikov

Will there be more natural disasters in the future?

Climate change is one of the most important environmental problems. The main cause of climate change is an increased volume of greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere. During just a few decades the global greenhouse gas emissions have increased by 70% whereas the concentration of one of the main gases, carbon dioxide has almost doubled. The principal source of greenhouse gas emissions is the energy sector since most of the world community demand for energy is met by burning fossil fuels (oil, gas and coal). This in its turn produces emissions of millions of tons of greenhouse gases, and increase of concentration of the latter in the atmosphere is leading to a global climate change.

Climate change has a significant impact not only on the main climatic characteristics but also on intensity of hazardous hydrometeorological phenomena. Researchers suggest that the global warming will result in increased frequency and severity of natural disasters. Hurricanes such as El Niño, Catrina and catastrophic storms are becoming ever more frequent in the

Caribbean and South-East Asia. Drought and wildfires alternate with heavy rains and floods. The number of natural disasters is on the rise across the globe. Computer modeling shows that such cataclysms will continue to become more frequent and their consequences will be coming at an increasingly high cost.

Based on the specific volume of carbon dioxide emissions Tajikistan is rated as 150th in the world, i.e. in the group of countries with the lowest level of greenhouse gas emissions. The volume of greenhouse gas emissions per capita is by an order of magnitude less than the average global figure and it has the lowest greenhouse gas emissions in the Central Asian region. At the same time, Tajikistan is one of the most vulnerable countries on the Eurasian continent with regard to the on-going climate changes.

“Almost all climatic zones of the world are present in Tajikistan. This is why a particular attention is paid in the republic to detailed climate studies” - says Ilhom Rajabov, the head of research center for climate change and ozone layer under the State Agency on Hydrometeorology of Tajikistan.

Natural hydrometeorological phenomena in Tajikistan

According to Ilhom Rajabov Tajikistan is already facing most serious consequences of the global climate change. Experts have noted active glacier melting, rising of average annual temperatures, variation of precipitation figures, more frequent periods marked by extreme weather conditions (hail, snowfall, drought), and increase of natural disasters caused mostly by weather and climatic conditions. All of the above can significantly affect the state of natural resources, human health and overall economic development in Tajikistan.

In winter of 2007-2008, a sharp increase in the number of snow avalanches was reported in the republic. Thus, for example, snow slides blocked the

Dushanbe-Khujand road, partly damaged the infrastructure and claimed several human lives.

Over the last few years, the number of mudflows triggered by heavy rains has also increased. The floods in 2002, 2003 and 2005 on the Zeravshan river washed away houses, damaged roads and power transmission lines and caused human casualties. In 2002, there occurred a glacial lake outburst flood in Roshtqala district in the Pamir. A powerful flood which ensued killed 25 people and caused significant material damages.

The drought of 2000-2001 in Tajikistan turned out to be the largest natural disaster of the last decade. The losses caused by it were estimated at tens of millions of US dollars. In summer and fall of 2007, there was almost no atmospheric precipitation on the entire territory of the republic which engendered soil drought.

“Intensity and frequency of droughts in Tajikistan is very likely to increase as a result of climate warming. Climate change alongside with such negative

Of the total 245 major disasters that occurred in 2009 224 originated as a result of extreme weather conditions. They affected 55 million people (the total number of people affected by disasters amounted to 55 million) and took the lives of 7,000 people (the total number of casualties being 8,900). The economic loss resulting from those disasters constituted USD 15 billion (with the total losses from disasters estimated at USD 19 billion).

impacts as unregulated cattle grazing, deforestation and inefficient agricultural practices may significantly intensify soil erosion and degradation processes. The much hotter weather would lead to increased desertification and hence a drop in productivity of various crops. These combined effects can lead to catastrophic aftermaths in terms of agricultural development in the republic”- Ilhom Rajabov said.

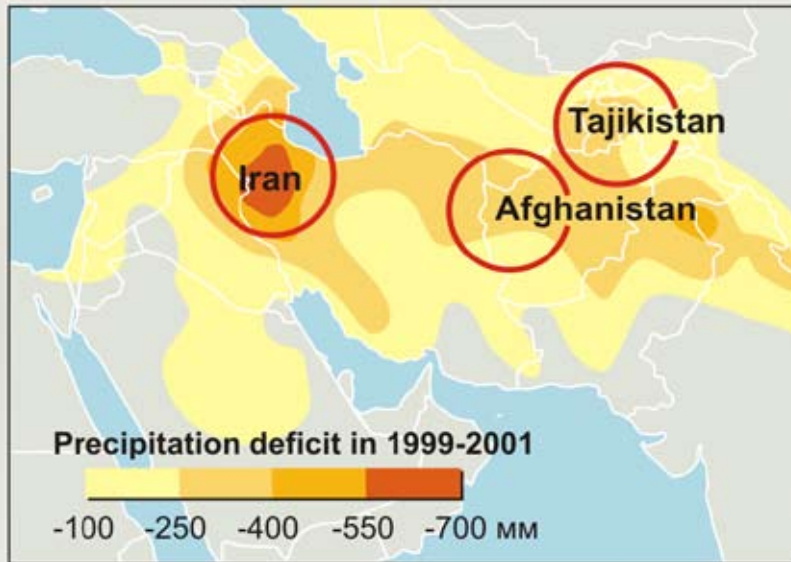
Measures taken

International and local studies show that climate changes and natural disasters are closely interrelated. Today, the issues of integration of those essential aspects into national development programs and strategies are discussed at the highest level with involvement of national



Flood in Hamadoni district, Tajikistan
Photo: N. Qalandarov

Drought in Tajikistan and neighboring countries



○ - severe drought affected regions

Source: State Agency on Hydrometeorology, Tajikistan

leaders. Failure to address those problems may jeopardize long-term sustainable development of the countries. There is recognition of this fact in Tajikistan also where a number of measures have been taken to identify priority areas and key directions of activities in this field.

“The Committee for Emergency Situations is a key partner of ours. We work with them on a day-to-day basis” - said Jamila Baidullaeva, head of the Hydromet Center under the State Agency for Hydrometeorology of the republic. “The Hydromet Center provides CoES with daily, mid-term and seasonal forecasts as well as gale warnings and information on pending natural disasters on a daily basis. In its turn CoES disseminates the information to local executive bodies” - pointed out Jamila Baidullaeva.

In 2003, Tajikistan adopted the National action plan for climate change mitigation for 2005-2016. It contains a section on reduction of disaster risks associated with climate change. Sultonnazar Kholiknazarov, the deputy head of the Chief Emergency Headquarters of the Committee for Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of Tajikistan, pointed out that the CoES in cooperation with other concerned agencies is in the process of developing a

disaster risk reduction strategy and action plan to implement that strategy. The Strategy is to be adopted early next year. “We hope that it will be an integrated document that will help us determine the key priorities and areas of activities for disaster risk reduction for the years to come” - said Colonel Kholiknazarov.

Climate change adaptation is a key priority for Tajikistan. According to the World Bank, the republic is among the 10 most vulnerable countries of the world. A pilot project was launched recently in Tajikistan aimed at building climate change resilience. The project envisages to develop in 2010 a Strategic program on climate change resilience.

“It is expected that the project will be supported by the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Tajikistan may receive a grant of USD 30 million for implementation of the Strategic Program focusing on climate change adaptation” - noted Ilhom Rajabov.

NB: *Tajikistan signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1998. In 2003, the Government of the Republic adopted the National Action Plan for Climate Change Mitigation. In 2008, Tajikistan acceded the Kyoto Protocol. The same year, the country prepared the second National Report under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. In 2009, a resolution was signed in Tajikistan on establishment of a National Authority for implementation of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) within the framework of Kyoto Protocol.*

Shahodat Saibnazarova,
Timur Idrisov

UNISDR CA Publications in 2009

“How to construct a safe house using clay”

Authors: P.Yasunov, Sh.Jalolov.

This booklet sets forth in a popular form the main principles of ensuring stability of buildings made of local materials. Besides, it contains the basic information about the origin and aftermaths of earthquakes that should be considered in design and construction.

The booklet is aimed at individual builders in rural areas having no specialized education in the field of construction. The publication was commissioned by the sub-regional office for Central Asia of United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and with financial support of European Commission Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid (DG-ECHO). The booklet was published in the Russian and Tajik languages.



“Compendium of Good Examples of Successful Disaster Risk Reduction Activities in the Sphere of Education in Central Asia”

The publication reveals some practical aspects and methodologies applied in DRR-related programs and projects in the sphere of education that were implemented by local and international organizations in Central Asian countries.

The Compendium was prepared by the sub-regional office for Central Asia of United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the United Nations Children's Fund with financial support of European Commission Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid (DG-ECHO). The publication is available in the Russian and English languages.

“EARTHQUAKE: how to protect oneself from the elements”

Authors: Sh.A.Khakimov B.S.Nurtaev

The booklet presents in an easily understandable manner a set of materials explaining the nature of the earthquake, its impact on buildings, people and environment. It contains recommendations as to how people should behave before, during and after an earthquake. The booklet is mainly aimed at high-school students, but it just as well may turn out useful for the adult reader.

The publication was prepared and carried out through the sub-regional office for Central Asia of United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction with financial support of European Commission Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid (DG-ECHO). The booklet was published in the Russian and Tajik languages.



International Day for Disaster Reduction



Tajik State Medical University, after fire
Dushanbe 2008
Photo: N. Qalandarov

The International Disaster Risk Reduction Day was marked on 14 October throughout the world. This year the event was devoted to ensuring hospital safety.

According to the United Nations Secretary General, Ban-ki Moon, a list of criteria used to estimate hospitals' preparedness to natural disasters could be accepted as an indicator of reliability of the medical facilities. The UN head pointed out that such an indicator was already being used in a number of countries in Latin America as well as in other countries such as Oman, Sudan and Tajikistan.

A special campaign has been conducted for two year aimed at ensuring full-fledged operation of medical institutions during natural disasters and other crisis situations. It is in such critical times that their uninterrupted operation is of key importance for saving human lives.

On the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Reduction the UN

appealed to the world community to take measures necessary to reduce disaster consequences. Emergency preparedness and the use of early warning systems can save human lives and property.

Why do we need safe hospitals?

Adverse consequences of natural disasters can be observed everywhere. During the last few weeks alone, the world witnessed the destructive earthquake in Indonesia, typhoon in Philippines and tsunami that struck Samoa and nearby islands.

The study conducted by the Center for Research on epidemiology of disasters reported that over the period from 1980 to 2007 there occurred approximately 8,400 natural disasters that resulted in deaths of over two million people. The total losses from those disasters amounted to over USD 1.5 trillion.

Geoffrey Love, meteorologist and director of the weather and disaster risk reduction center of the World Meteorological organization says that "most deaths and economic losses were caused by weather, climatic and water-related emergency situations. These include droughts, floods, storms, tropical cyclones and wild fires. Over the last 50 years the economic losses increased by 50 times. However the number of deaths dwindled by 10 times simply due to the fact that warning systems become increasingly effective. It is true that we can exert positive influence on the way the situation develops. Certainly, extreme phenomena will continue to happen in the future but they do not necessarily need to become disasters."

Mr. Love went on to say that emergencies will be happening all the time but they become disasters only when no measures are taken to prepare for them: "There are a lot of such measures. In terms of planning they are very simple. For example, construction of reinforced buildings or banning of construction in areas where the buildings run the risk of destruction. In terms of early warning, we

need to make sure that absolutely all the population is aware of the pending hazard and an emergency action plan is in place.”

The World Meteorological Organization cites Cuba and Bangladesh as an example of countries that have succeeded in avoiding numerous casualties by taking preventive measures. WMO reported that tropical cyclones had brought tens if not hundreds of lost human lives in Cuba in the past. However, introduction of an early warning system has reversed this trend. In 2008, five hurricanes hit Cuba but only seven people died as a result of those emergencies.

Bangladesh has also achieved spectacular results lately. In 1970-1991, around 440 thousand persons lost their lives as a result of strong storms. Due to thorough preparation to the possible natural disaster the number of people who died as a result of the powerful cyclone Sidr in November 2007 amounted to less than 3,500 people.

International Day for Disaster Reduction

Various events to mark the International Disaster Risk Reduction Day were organized throughout the world from Nepal to Panama and from the United Kingdom to South Africa. UN agencies, international and local non-governmental organizations, public health, medical and academic institutions took part in these activities.

London

The principle events marking the International Day were held in London (United Kingdom). It was here that the UK Health Protection Agency together with the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNISDR announced establishment of a specialized Thematic Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction for Health. Moreover, the London Five Hospitals Fire Report was launched by the UK's National Health Service. Opening Remarks by Sir John Holmes, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator were delivered by Helena Molin Valdés, Deputy Director, UNISDR.

Bangkok

In Bangkok (Thailand), UNISDR, together with the ASEAN Secretariat and UNESCAP, held an exhibition for a regional drawing competition entitled ‘Safe Hospitals’. During the exhibition an Awards Ceremony was held together with thematic plenary sessions.

Dushanbe

UNISDR organized a meeting with the Medical University students in the capital of Tajikistan. A region-wide photo contest on “Hospitals Safe from Disasters” was also announced by UNISDR to mark the International Disaster Risk Reduction Day. The Fourth International Conference of the Economic Cooperation Organization on disaster risk management was held in Dushanbe in early October. Among other things, the Conference discussed safety of hospitals during natural disasters.

Nairobi

A wide range of activities including simulations to improve preparedness of local hospitals to natural disasters, volunteers' dry-run exercises and exhibitions showing materials and equipment required for efficient functioning of medical centers during and after emergencies took place in Nairobi. All these events became possible due to close cooperation between UNISDR, WHO and Kenya Red Cross and also respective public authorities and major

Exhibition: Safety of our hospitals

In 2001, 3,812 hospitals and medical institutions were destroyed as a result of an earthquake in Gujarat, India.

In 2003, 50% of all medical institutions were damaged in the area hit by an earthquake in Algeria.

In 2004, 61% of medical institutions suffered damages in the Indonesian province of Aceh during the tsunami.

In 2005, 49% of all hospitals and medical stations were completely destroyed during an earthquake in the Northern Pakistan.

In 2008, 57% of all medical institutions sustained damages in Myanmar region hit by Nargis cyclone.

In 2008, - over 11,028 hospitals and medical institutions sustained damages in Sichuan province of China during an earthquake.

In 2009, a large number of hospitals and medical institutions were completely or partly destroyed as a result of disasters that took place in Burkina Faso, Indonesia, Nepal, Italy, Samoa and Tonga.



The world this year suffered the fewest number of natural disasters in a decade, according to the released United Nations report, extracts of which were provided by Reuters. However, floods, droughts and other extreme weather phenomena continued to account for most of the deaths and economic losses.

There were 245 natural disasters recorded in 2009 - a significant

2009: the most halcyon year in terms of natural disasters

decrease compared with the decade highest rate of 434 disasters registered in 2005. The figures were released mid-way through an international climate conference of member states of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which opened up in Copenhagen on December 7 and will last through to December 18. According to the preliminary figures, of the 245 disasters registered in the departing year, 224 were weather-related and accounted for seven thousand deaths out of the eighty nine hundred, according to the preliminary figures. As for economic losses in 2009, the natural disasters caused 19 billion dollars in damages.

“While the numbers of disasters and associated economic losses

have increased between 10 and 50 times (over the last 50 years), the reported loss of life has dramatically been reduced by a factor of 10,” said World Meteorological Organization Secretary-General Michel Jarraud. According to Jarraud “progress in monitoring and forecasting extreme weather, along with improved emergency preparedness, has helped reduce fatalities”.

Moreover, the report said that people living in Asia were especially vulnerable to storms and floods. In the first 11 months of 2009, 48 million Asians were affected by such disasters, of the 58 million total around the globe.

Source: “Nezavisimaya gazeta”
photo: Russian MoES

Multilateral development banks call for adoption of equitable agreement on climate change

Manila, Philippines (2 December 2009) - The President of Asian Development Bank (ADB) Haruhiko Kuroda, together with the heads of other multilateral development banks, made an appeal to adopt a universal agreement following the results of the negotiations on climate change issues, which will take place in Copenhagen next week.

As it comes from the statement made on Tuesday afternoon (1 December), the presidents of the world leading international financial organizations agreed to coordinate their financial aid allocated to activities in response to climate change. They agreed to use their joint experience, knowledge and resources for rendering assistance to members of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and private sector in order to stand

against the problems caused by the climate change.

The presidents of Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund undertake commitment to use technical assistance and financial resources for increasing their contributions to combating the climate change.

The parties acknowledged the UNFCCC as a priority and called for adoption of the Copenhagen agreement, which will ensure ambitious, universal and equitable conditions for all countries to be able to achieve sustainable development. Meanwhile it will ensure low levels of carbon emissions and climate change adaptation.

Further on, they renewed their commitment to render assistance to the developing countries in adaptation to climate change, creation and transferring of ecologically clean technologies and knowledge as consistent with the countries' needs. According to the statement, at such an important period, the parties are prepared to jointly support the countries in the maximum utilization of financial flows for creation of equitable, ambitious and universal conditions on climate change after 2012.

“Climate change adaptation represents a horrendous task, probably the biggest one, which the mankind ever encountered. However, this also offers an opportunity to shift to a more sustainable growth”, noted Mr. Kuroda.

Source: official press release of ADB

UN consolidated appeal to donors for humanitarian action in 2010

UN Emergency Aid Coordinator John Holmes addressed donors with a consolidated appeal, to allocate voluntary contribution funding for humanitarian activities of UN agencies and institutions. A total of 7.1 billion dollars was requested for 2010 to render assistance to 48 million people in 25 countries.

As planned, these resources will be used for funding of UN activities and its specialized agencies on rendering emergency assistance to populations affected by conflicts

and natural disasters. The funding will also be used for providing food assistance to the hungry people, rendering medical assistance to the diseased and providing tents to refugees and displaced people.

John Holmes noted that the humanitarian appeal for 2010 - is the largest one throughout the history of such appeals since 1991. Yet, this amount is just 1% of the total funds allocated for support of economies in 2009.

The requested resources will be used to fund the projects of UN

humanitarian organizations and their partnering non-governmental organizations, mainly in the African, Asian and Middle Eastern countries. The resources, above all, will be allocated to render assistance to the population of Sudan, Afghanistan and Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Source: www.un.org

Women in poor countries suffer from climate change more than others

By end of November, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) submitted its annual report. This year, the key subject of the report is the impact of climate change effects on the status of women and vulnerable groups of population.

The authors of the report concluded that the efforts on family planning, protection of women's reproductive health and ensuring of gender balance may influence further climate change process, and may reflect on how the humankind will be able to adapt to such changes as the rising of sea level, more frequently happening hurricanes, storms and droughts.

UNFPA Executive Director, Soraya Ahmed Obeid, presenting the new report in London, pointed out: "The report suggests that the climate change issue is not only the concern of technologies. This relates to the people, as the people's activities caused the problem. Climate change has a negative impact on people and they have to adapt to its effects. And only people are in position to stop this process".

She emphasized that the greenhouse gases emissions have been rapidly increasing for the last fifty years due to the vigorous growth of population and industrialization. "Right now, the humankind stands on the verge of a catastrophe", stated Soraya Ahmed Obeid.

She stressed out the scope of the damages caused by the modern society on the environment. "At present moment, the carbon trail of one billion most poor population of the planet makes up a mere three percent of the total scale of carbon impact. However, the impoverished people, of all the others, will have to suffer the disproportionately large share of hardships caused by the climate change", the Head of UNFPA pointed out.

She underlined that already now, many people in the world, especially women from poor countries, acutely feel and suffer more than others from the negative changes of climate, even though they have little to do with it. "Poor women do not travel by airlines. They do not drive cars. As a rule, when they have difficulties in bearing a child, they cannot find a

car to get to hospital", stated the Fund representative.

Soraya Ahmed Obeid appealed to the governments with a call to fight against the consequences of the global warming on the planet, to remember the women's rights and the need to render assistance to them in their efforts on adaptation to the climate change effects.

The authors of the report recommend the governments to better prepare for overcoming the disasters caused by the climate change and people's migration, interalia through due regard for the population dynamics and improvement of women's status.

Source: UN News Centre
Photo: Firuz Barotov



Transportation chaos caused by heavy snowfall continues in Europe

The number of victims of the harshest natural disaster for the last several years which struck Europe reached 80.

Chill and heavy snowfall, which pounced on Europe caused fatalities. 42 deaths were caused by extreme colds during the several days in Poland. Majority were homeless and people in a state of alcoholic intoxication. Polish rescue service acknowledged that "they never experienced such cases of multiple fatalities caused by cold". 27 deaths were reported in Ukraine, 6 in Germany. Others became the victims of road traffic accidents on the icy roads of Austria, Finland and Germany.

In Switzerland, the all-time minus temperatures throughout the country history have been registered: in some of the regions thermometer stems showed as low as 35 degrees below zero. In German Bavaria another record

temperature throughout the history of observations has been registered - minus 34 degrees.

Massive snowfalls and extreme formation of ice on the roads led to a real transportation collapse on land as well as the air communication of several European countries. Witnesses report that almost all transportation arteries of the United Kingdom are covered by a "stiff" ice crust. On Monday alone, around 20 thousand road accidents and other "road contingencies" were reported to have happened across the UK, which is double the usual daily figures.

Meteorological forecasts are disappointing: nasty weather will continue through to Friday, when Western Christmas is celebrated. This will force tens of thousands of British citizens to change their New Year's plans. Flight cancellations or significant delay warnings have already been given



to the passengers in the airports of Scotland, Wales and England. London Heathrow requested its passengers to check their flight information beforehand.

The largest in Europe, Frankfurt am Main airport, still operates in a far from normal mode. It was closed for a night of Monday to Tuesday, which caused cancellation of 229 flights. As a result, around 8 thousand passengers were not able to depart for their destinations.

Source: "Rossiyskaya gazeta"

ASEAN agreement on disaster risk management and emergency response comes into force

"The agreement of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) entered into force on Thursday, after ratification by all its ten member states", says a standing secretariat press-release of ASEAN.

"The agreement is the region's response to the need to establish a regional disaster management framework. It contains provisions on disaster risk identification, monitoring and early warning, prevention and mitigation, preparedness and response, rehabilitation, technical cooperation and research,

coordination mechanisms, and simplified customs and immigration procedures", says the document.

"The agreement is one of the fastest-negotiated documents in ASEAN's history, having gone through a mere four months of negotiations," the Secretary-General of ASEAN, Dr. Surin Pitsuwan said. "The entry into force of AADMER is a remarkable progress for ASEAN in its joint effort in responding to disasters happening in the region and in reducing disaster risks more effectively," he said.

The region was hit by the tsunami in December 2004, leaving more than 200,000 people dead.

Signed by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers in July 2005, AADMER also provides for the establishment of an ASEAN Coordination Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) to undertake operational coordination of activities, and the development of a task specific Work programme for 2010-2015, the signing of which is scheduled for March 2010.

Source: RIA News Agency

Disaster risk management issues under discussion in Armenia

Armenia has to learn how to manage disaster risks, said Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sarkisyan on 14 December 2009 at the Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Management which took place in Armenia.

“We must learn to live under emergency conditions: more than any other country, Armenia is aware of disaster consequences”, said the Prime Minister reminding in particular that some 21 years have passed from the Spitak earthquake, yet Armenia still suffers from its economic, social and psychological impact.

According to the Prime Minister Armenia has to learn managing risks based on the international experience, which means to face

the complex task of building up a comprehensive system of up-to-date management enabling prediction of disasters.

“So far we have been suffering from hails, landslides, droughts, soil erosion; there is also a threat of desertification, that is to say almost all kinds of natural disasters. Considering this, in the first place, we must correctly identify the priorities and problems as our financial resources do not allow us to make large-scale investments in this sector. In relation to the said, it becomes particularly important to undertake analytical activities which will enable us to reveal the areas where investments are mostly demanded”, said Sarkisyan.

The Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Situations Management was organized by the World Bank in cooperation with the Government of Armenia with the financial support of the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR).

The participants of the forum discussed the government's priorities and programmes in the area of disaster risk management, reviewed the issues of seismic challenges, floods and landslides risks, institutional systems of information and forecasting of potential emergency situations, as well as natural disaster insurance.

Source: Armenia - news

President of Tajikistan's address at the Copenhagen climate change summit

On December 16, the President of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmon delivered an address at a plenary session of the UN conference on climate change that was held in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The President specifically indicated that Tajikistan is among the countries most vulnerable to the climate change effects despite the fact that its rate of emissions per capita is one of the lowest in the world.

“In Tajikistan, which on account of complicated geographical conditions is becoming increasingly vulnerable to the on-going climate changes, the average annual air temperature increased almost by 1 degree Centigrade over the last 60 years and the number of days with heavy precipitation also increased during that period” - said the President.

“However, the key factor of those processes is doubtlessly an

intensive melting of snowfields and glaciers. Just during the last few decades, glaciers in Tajikistan have lost over one third of their normal volume” - informed Emomali Rahmon.

He reiterated his appeal to the conference participants about the need to establish an International Facility for Conservation of Glaciers that could pool the efforts of the countries in the region and international community in that strategic sector.

The President also focused in his speech on water resources. “I would like to dwell in more detail on another important aspect of the global climate change, namely, on its impact on the global fresh water reserves.

This problem is particularly valid for Central Asia where water forms the basis of socio-economic development.

Our country has initiated two important water-related resolutions of the UN General Assembly: initiative to declare 2003 the International Year of Fresh Water and initiative to declare an International Decade of Action “Water for Life” (2005-2015). The country also pursues an active water-oriented policy at the regional and global level” - stated Emomali Rahmon.

Source: “Little Earth”



Rural rescue teams training

From 10 to 24 November 2009, training exercises were conducted in Bishkek, northern villages of Naryn, Issyk-Kul and Chuy Regions of Kyrgyzstan under the UNDP project “Integration of Disaster Risk Management in Decentralization Process in Kyrgyzstan”, which aims at cross-checking and testing the existing preparedness and response plans of the Rural Rescue Teams (RRT).

According the exercise concept “after the initial strikes of an earthquake of 3-4 degrees and the possible threat of aftershocks” members of RRT work out their actions on the following main stages of response: early warning, gathering and task setting, evacuation of schoolchildren, search and transportation of

victims, rendering of first aid in the safety areas.

The participants of the exercise were the heads of regional departments of the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MoES), heads and staff members of district departments of MoES, representatives of local administrations, school principals and teachers, schoolchildren of upper grades, members of RRT and local delegates. 63 participants out of 111 were rescuers. Evacuation activities comprised teachers and schoolchildren of secondary schools of all pilot communities - over 350 people.

As reported by MoES representatives, the exercise observers, even though such exercises on response to

emergencies were conducted in the pilot communities for the first time, the results were encouraging. The final versions of RRT preparedness and response plans will be adjusted based on the outcomes of the conducted training exercises.

Source: UNDP Kyrgyzstan
Photo: UNDP Kyrgyzstan



Emergency and disaster medicine chair opens in Kazakhstan for the first time

The doctors of the Disaster Medicine Centre under the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MoES) of the Republic of Kazakhstan have accomplished the first cycle of professional training and upgrade course. Upon completion of the training, the first group of students - 10 specialists from the Disaster Medicine Centre, have received certificates on successful completion of the course. The training course was held as a result of close cooperation between the MoES of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the JS “Astana Medical University”.

The Disaster Medicine Centre was established by the JS “Astana Medical University” in October 2009. The idea to establish the centre emerged back early 2009,

when the present-day realities demanded for preparation of new profile specialists. The centre will focus on preparing doctors of “Emergency and Disaster Medicine” qualification, as well as on the professional training and upgrading of the doctors working in the respective fields.

The centre plans to conduct qualification upgrade in “Emergency and Disaster Medicine” and professional training on the following programmes: for health sector managers - on health facility preparedness and effective functioning at the times of disasters and emergency situations, for doctors of MoES working on pre-hospital health care services. The centre will also train doctors of other

specialties within the framework of qualification upgrading in their respective fields of specialization.

The centre will fulfil such objectives as teaching organizational basics of health care services in emergency situations, practical learning of skills in first medical pre-doctor aid and first doctor aid. Much attention is paid to interaction with other chairs of the university for harmonization and more effective teaching of emergency and disaster medicine issues, as well as to the development of scientific activities to study and improve the methodologies of rendering first medical aid to disaster victims.

Source: Press-Service of MoES RK

Search & rescue exercises of MoES in Uzbekistan

In September 2009, the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Uzbekistan held three-day all-around search and rescue competitions in the area of Charvak water reservoir among units of the MoES of Uzbekistan. The goal of the competitions was to exercise MoES operations in case of emergencies at water reservoirs.

According to the Uzbek MoES, different units in the Ministry trained during the competitions to respond to natural and man-made disasters.

“They were to demonstrate good teamwork and skills in responding to an earthquake. These were the key-words of the competitions.

The teams had to show their expertise in handling hydraulic hardware in a destroyed building and also rescue people from under debris.

They also had to evacuate “the injured” and administer first aid to them” - explained an MoES representative.

The competitions in the area of Charvak water reservoir were no less challenging.

The rescuers were to raise from the bottom and carry to the shore a dummy imitating a drowned person. Besides, the participants demonstrated their skills of operating on and under water.

The main goal of the conducted competitions was prevention of emergencies, population protection, liquidation of earthquake consequences and training of population to act effectively during emergencies.

Based on the results of the competitions the first place was given to the republican multidisciplinary center for rapid response; the special rapid response unit and the search and rescue team of the emergency department of Samarkand region were awarded second and third places respectively.

Source - Regnum information agency

An earthquake destroyed the homes of people living in Vanj

An earthquake of 5.3 magnitude on Richter scale struck the Vanj district of GBAO, Tajikistan, on 2 January 2010 at 7:15 in the morning.

The deputy chairman of Vanj district, Azimjon Shamsiddinov, informed the media that about 20 thousand people were affected. “No human casualties were reported as a result of the disaster but people's houses in rural areas sustained severe damage.

Some of the houses are beyond repair.

I am referring to the villages of Gishhon, Rog and some others...” - said Shamsiddinov.

According to the data published by the US Geological Survey the earthquake registered 5.3 on Richter scale with the epicenter located 235 kilometers to the east of Dushanbe, 80 kilometers to the north of Khorog at the depth of 44.5 km.

Preliminary data collected by the International Federation of Red Cross indicates that 98 houses were destroyed (unsuitable for further residence) and 622 persons were left without shelter and currently have to live in their relatives' or neighbours' houses.

921 other houses (where 6,215 persons reside) sustained slighter damage.

According to FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance some houses in the center of Vanj settlement such as the polyclinic, secondary schools in Rog village, the building of the tax department, building of culture department, musical school, the building of AmonatBank and the building of the district administration also sustained partial damage.

The Government established an Emergency Commission in the district center. Besides, to complete the needs assessment of the affected population in

six Jamoats of the district 6 emergency response stations were established.

To carry out a thorough damage assessment the Government mobilized a team of experts from Dushanbe which comprises experts from CoES, Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology, Directorate of Geology and State Agency for Architecture and Construction.

Source: UNDP Tajikistan
Photo: UNDP Tajikistan





Cities and climate change adaptation - resilient cities 2010

The first congress on urban resilience and adaptation to climate change will be held on 28-30 May 2010 in Bonn, Germany. The congress will be held preceding the UN climate talks in Bonn, which are scheduled for 31 May - 11 June 2010. ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, together with the City of Bonn and in cooperation with many partner organizations, will host the Resilient Cities 2010.

The congress will discuss the existing risks and hazards, socio-economic aspects of urban development, planning and infrastructure, financial issues, as well as the technologies and methods of climate change adaptation.

Congress participants will be mayors and representatives of the municipalities, experts from design institutes and

architectural agencies and public utility services. Representatives from a number of international and local organizations, private sector and consulting companies will also participate in the event.

Resilient Cities 2010 will enhance exchange, learning, networking, debate and policy development, and find new partners. It is expected that the congress will identify approaches and solutions for further measures on climate change adaptation and risk management for cities and municipalities.

Additional information:
ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability
Email: bonn2010@iclei.org
<http://www.iclei.org/bonn2010>

7th International Course on "Hospital Emergency Preparedness and Response".



7th international training course on disaster preparedness of medical institutions will be held on March 8-12, 2010, in Bangkok, Thailand.

The training course will be organized by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC).

Natural and man-made disasters often not only damage infrastructure but also cause losses of human lives.

Saving the lives of the injured is contingent on numerous factors including availability of proper equipment, skilled staff and their preparedness to work under extreme conditions.

The training course was specifically developed to help administrations and staff of medical institutions to get prepared in an appropriate manner to possible emergencies and to improve the system of response and delivery of aid to the injured in case of a disaster.

Upon completion of the course the participants will know how to:

- carry out initial preparedness assessment of a medical facility and staff to emergencies;
- conduct drills in operation of medical facilities in emergency with a large inflow of the injured;
- propose disaster preparedness and response plans in accordance with the necessary requirements;
- apply first aid rules under the field conditions and depending on the characteristics of the natural disaster.

Additional information:
Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
Email: fjbabo3adpc.net
<http://www.adpc.net>

39th regional disaster risk management course

39th Regional Disaster Risk Management Course will take place from 1 to 19 February 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) will organize this training course. The course provides a unique opportunity for acquiring extensive skills and knowledge on disaster risk management and building the capacity in this area.

The course is designed in such a way that it helps experts, donor agencies and other stakeholders working in the area of disaster risk management to utilize gained knowledge in their existing or being developed programmes and projects.

Upon completion of the course the participants will be able to:

- Develop effective strategies for emergency preparedness and prevention, response to natural disasters and recovery after the emergency situations;
- Use risk assessment tools for identification, evaluation and prevention of emergency situations;
- Carry out the activities of emergency command during emergency situations and natural disasters;
- Identify key areas and requirements of disaster risk management.

Additional information:
Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre
Email: tedadpc@adpc.net
<http://www.adpc.net>



Climate change: vulnerability, impact and adaptation

On February 1-5, 2010, a training seminar on "Climate Change: Vulnerability, Impact and Adaptation" will be held in Newcastle, UK. The event organizer is Newcastle University.

The seminar will review the problems of risks and potential climate change impact on the environment and infrastructure. Such issues as water resources, floods, rising of the world oceans' level and coastal territories, public health, transportation and urban areas will be given a particular consideration. In addition to the potential negative effects of climate change, the participants will learn about the measures which may be undertaken in order to adapt to new conditions.

The candidates for participation in the seminar will be engineers, geodesists and other specialists from various fields of Earth science. The training course will enable the participants to acquire fresh knowledge and skills, as well as to upgrade their professional profile and

qualification. After completion of the seminar, the participants will be able to independently develop and suggest strategies for adaptation.

Upon completion of the course, the participants will be able to:

- Identify existing risks and the infrastructure most vulnerable to climate change;
- Incorporate risk aspects into the assessment systems and response measures;
- Evaluate the most probable impact of climate change and its effects on eco-systems and infrastructure;
- Define necessary measures on adapting the most important engineering systems, facilities and constructions.

Additional information:
<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/cegs.cpd/cpd/ccvulnabout.php>

