Enhancing Local Level Disaster Resilience in Serbia

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Legislative Framework

• Law on Emergency Situations adopted by the Serbian National Assembly in December 2009

• The Law defines activities, declaring and management in emergency situations; system of protection and rescue of citizens, material and cultural goods from natural and man-made disasters; rights and obligations of citizens, state agencies, autonomous provinces, local self-governments, companies and other legal persons and entrepreneurs; inspection and supervision, international cooperation and other issues relevant to organisation and functioning of the protection and rescue system.
Key Elements of the Law


- **Sector for Emergency Management** recognized as a single body within the Ministry of Interior where all emergency services from MOI, MOD and Ministry of Environment are integrated

- **Compliance with Hyogo Framework for Action** ensured through standards defined by the Law

- **High Level of Local Governments Involvement** and decision-making authority in the area of disaster management

- ‘**Enhanced Disaster Resilience**’ methodology based on Serbian law and international standards defined by UN HFA implemented through USAID funded Preparedness and Planning Program
• In accordance with the new Law on Emergency Situations, the Sector for Emergency Management is coordinating the activities regarding the adoption of the National Strategy for Emergencies, updated Emergency Plans and updated National Risk Assessment.
SEM Organizational Structure

Ministry of Interior

- Minister

Sector for Emergency Management

- Legal affairs
- Bureau of Head of Sector

DEPARTMENT FOR PREVENTION
DEPARTMENT FOR FIRE AND RESCUE UNITS
DEPARTMENT FOR RISK MANAGEMENT
DEPARTMENT FOR CIVIL PROTECTION
NATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

Organization Units on the level of Local Self-Government 1-27 – Departments and Divisions for Emergency Management (prevention, fire and rescue units, risk management, civil protection)

National Security Council

- MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND SPATIAL PLANNING
- MINISTRY OF HEALTH
- MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT
- MINISTRY OF DEFENSE
- MINISTRY FOR FINANCES
- MINISTRY FOR MINING AND ENERGETICS
- MINISTRY FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
- MINISTRY FOR AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND WATER RESOURCES
- HYDRO-METEOROLOGICAL INSTITUTION
- SEISMOLOGICAL OBSERVATORY
- PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES
- VOLUNTARY FIREFIGHTING UNITS
- AMBULANCE
- RED CROSS
- CITY RESCUE SERVICES
- ALPINIST SERVICE
- MOUNTAIN RESCUE SERVICE
- DIVERS
Hazards in Serbia

SEEDRMI Synthesis Report on SEE Countries Disaster Risks – Final Report

Distribution of different hazards in Serbia and Montenegro (1989-2006)

- Wild Fires: 4%
- Wind Storm: 4%
- Earthquake: 4%
- Epidemic: 8%
- Extreme Temperature: 8%
- Flood: 34%
- Transport Accident: 26%
- Misc Accident: 4%
- Industrial Accident: 8%
Preparedness and Planning Program

USAID’s Preparedness and Planning program builds a sustainable and systematic approach to local-level disaster management. The program helps municipalities be more resilient to crisis or disasters such as floods, wildfires, landslides, or chemical accidents.

*Preparedness, Planning and Economic Security Program is being implemented by Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI)*
- **Local level focus**: increased capacity and preparedness
- **Building relationships with partners**: local, district, provincial, national; SCTM; universities; NGOs
- **National level engagement**: the opportunity for dialogue and safe space; understanding local level issues
Enhancing Local-Level Disaster Resilience

1. Gain buy-in from the new municipalities and introduce Mayors with their role and responsibilities.

2. Introduce municipalities to the new legislation framework, in particular the requirements for establishing Disaster Management Teams at the local level.

3. Introduce municipalities to the methodology and tools needed to update an existing risk assessment or to conduct a new one.

4. Introduce municipalities to technical training in the development of Hazard Response Plans for specific threats such as Flood Response Plans and Fire Protection Plans.

5. Municipalities earn certification and bring their emergency services into compliance with the law by following a rigorous menu of criteria based on PPES’ own methodology.
Certified municipalities:

- Respond better to emergencies;
- Communicate better with citizens on emergencies;
- Reduce the time needed to assess damage following a disaster; and
- Increase the speed of delivery of relief and recovery assistance.

Enhanced Disaster Resilience
Initiatives and Projects

- Simulations
- Best Practice Fairs
- Conferences
- Perusing Pre-Accession funding
Program Results to date

**Building Local Capacity**
- 80 municipalities trained
- 45 municipalities certified
- 1,200 first responders trained
- Local level prevention initiatives supported with technical and/or financial help
- City of Nis aided to create Serbia’s first strategic plan built around safety

**Building National Infrastructure**
- Passage of the law
- Train and develop skills of core SEM and NTC staff
- Prepare new training curriculum to reflect modern technology
- Improve national-local government communications
- Help integrate relevant stakeholders into Serbia’s disaster management system

**International Cooperation and Recognition**
- EU fund application support
- Establish link between Serbia’s SEM and the FEMA
- Encourage Serbian municipalities to join UNISDR’s ‘Making Cities Resilient’: My City is Getting Ready Campaign
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

For more information please visit:

http://svs.mup.gov.rs
www.serbia.usaid.gov