Strengthening Disaster Resilience and Accelerating Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Central Asia

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GOAL:
Building the foundations for greater resilience in Central Asia through enhanced data, capacity, governance, and cooperation at local, urban, regional, and national levels in five countries: the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

BUDGET:
€3,750,000 (funded by the European Union).

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:
Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR)
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)
CIMA Research Foundation (CIMA)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
Risk knowledge

- For the first time, all five Central Asian countries have reported progress on implementation of the Sendai Framework targets in the Sendai Framework Monitor online tool.
- Four countries developed National Disaster Loss Databases and received training on using the DesInventar Sendai system, which supports development planning and national reporting on the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- Updating the INFORM Subnational Model for Central Asia, supporting Central Asian countries to assess hazards and prioritize resources and implement decisions about prevention, preparedness, and disaster responses at subnational levels.
- Adoption of a regional risk profile by the Heads of Emergency Authorities, which is updated regularly.
- Design and creation of the website of the National DRR Platform of Kyrgyzstan.
- Raising awareness on DRR throughout the region, with the engagement of NDMAs, departments of education, UN agencies and international organizations. Several workshops, events, and creativity contests have been organized, including on the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, to build awareness of disaster prevention and resilience amongst children, youth, and local communities across the region. Videos, news articles and billboards have also delivered key DRR-messages to the wider public.

Risk governance

- National DRR strategy reviews completed in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, resulting in their strengthened alignment with the Sendai Framework. A concept for a DRR strategy has been submitted to the government of Kazakhstan, and an assessment of the National DRR Strategy is planned in Uzbekistan.
- Action plans for the implementation of DRR strategies developed in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.
- National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction established in Turkmenistan and strengthened in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.
- Stress testing of the National Disaster Risk Management System’s capacity to reduce, absorb and transfer disaster risk conducted in Tajikistan, with a targeted action plan to strengthen it. A similar process is planned in Kyrgyzstan.
- High-level delegations from Central Asian countries and CESDRR actively participated in the 2021 European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction and the 2022 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Regional cooperation on DRR

- CESDRR's role strengthened as the regional secretariat for coordination and source of expertise, information, and capacity building on DRR:
  - Coordinating risk data collection and management, capacity building on GIS-based risk and disaster mapping, and facilitating development of cross-border early warning systems for multiple hazards.

Local-level resilience building

- The capital cities of Ashgabat, Bishkek, Dushanbe, and Astana conducted over 10 multi-stakeholder workshops, assessing their disaster risk management governance structures and policies, and identifying recommendations for strengthening their local resilience strategies and plans. Strategies for strengthening resilience are being finalized.
- Astana, Bishkek, and Dushanbe joined the global Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative, accessing city-to-city learning networks, technical expertise, and partnerships on local resilience building.
- Central Asian cities are participating in a peer exchange with Greater Manchester, a MCR2030 Resilience Hub, in December 2022.
- Nine additional cities across Central Asia have been introduced to the principles of developing resilience strategies, with plans underway for next steps along their resilience journeys.

Community-level engagement

- Supported the creation of local disaster management committees and training of volunteers, school students, and community leaders. Activities supported over 50,000 beneficiaries across 65 communities to identify risks and hazards, determine solutions, mobilize local and external resources, and implement small infrastructural projects.