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Swiss Cooperation Office
South Caucasus

Provision of expertise to strengthen the Disaster Risk Reduction capacity in Georgia (phase II)

WHO DOES WHAT WHERE
IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
IN GEORGIA
Third edition
June 2011

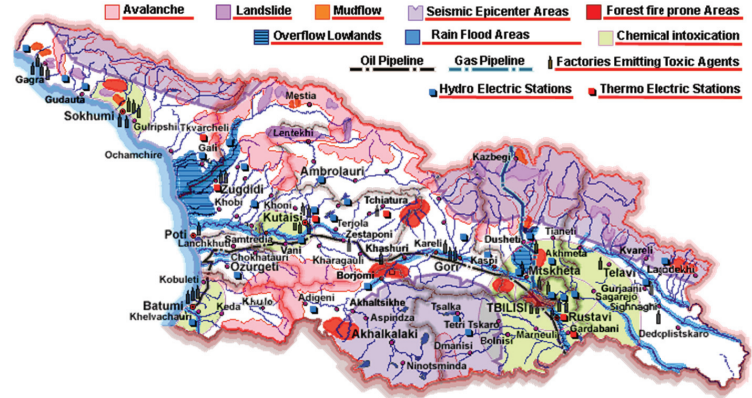


Georgian Committee
for Disaster Risk Reduction &
Environment Sustainable Development



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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



Project title

Provision of expertise to strengthen the Disaster Risk Reduction capacity in Georgia (phase II)
[Domain Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)]

General information

Region: Georgia
Duration: November 2010 - December 2012
Budget: CHF 568'000

Project partners

UNDP Georgia, UN Resident Coordinator's Office, Government of Georgia (GoG): National Security Council, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Environment Protection other line ministries, regional and local authorities, civil society representatives, emergency services, scientific institutions, international and national organizations.

Project objectives

The overall objective is to increase the capacities within the Government of Georgia to reduce the country's disaster risks and to align the activities of the international stakeholders with the DRR priorities of the GoG. The intended outcome is to make DRR a national, regional and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation. To achieve the aimed results, SDC funds a senior DRR advisor at UNDP Georgia, fostering an effective coordination among the different ministries and other DRR stakeholders.

Background

Georgia is exposed to a wide range of natural and man-made disasters, including earthquakes, floods, droughts, landslides, avalanches and technological disasters. Combined with the country's vulnerability, due to the economical situation, improper natural resources management and poor infrastructure maintenance this implies high risks and severe impacts in case a disaster strikes.

Despite having signed the international DRR framework (Hyogo Framework of Action/ HFA) and various reforms, Georgia's disaster risk management system shows fundamental gaps at the central as well as at the local level. One of the challenges is to change the focus from response/preparedness to prevention/mitigation and to broaden the civil defence disaster management approach by including publicly known risk scenarios, humanitarian issues and the integration of DRR into economic, social and urban development policies and practices which requires an efficient coordination of all DRR stakeholders.

From 2008 to 2010 SDC and UNDP launched the first phase of this project. Aligned with the HFA a proactive and preventive risk management approach in Georgia was enhanced. DRR was promoted as priority theme of the new UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF 2011-2015) and the corresponding UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD 2011-2015). A shift of focus from hazard assessment to risk management and from response/preparedness to prevention/mitigation was promoted, through DRR coordination meetings, local assessments, DRR trainings etc.

Project activities

- a) National DRR Platform:
 - Organization of regular Think-tank / National Platform meetings,
 - Development of a HFA Implementation Plan,
 - "Who Does What Where in DRR in Georgia" inventory update.
- b) DRR mainstreaming:
 - Risk assessments / early warning studies on flood and climate risk management incl. 2 regional risk management action plans,
 - Mobilisation of external resources for DRR-projects, incl. a strategic pilot demonstrating the importance of mainstreaming,
 - Capacity development initiatives on preparedness for policy makers/ implementers and responders, incl. simulation exercises,
 - Update / development of contingency and disaster management strategy plans,
 - Translation and publication of technical publications on DRR,
 - Continuation of advocacy and policy dialogue of DRR issues.
- c) Sectorial coordination:
 - Update and implementation of UN contingency plans,
 - Capacity development initiatives on response, prevention etc. for policy makers, emergency planners, responders,
 - Development of a National Disaster Risk Management strategy,
 - Simulation exercises with government, local authorities, civil society and international organizations.

Expected results (outputs)

- a) A functional National Platform for DRR is promoted;
- b) DRR is mainstreamed into governmental policies, plans and practices;
- c) Sectorial coordination in disaster management with special focus on humanitarian issues is established by the UN Country Team.



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