



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Swiss Cooperation Office
South Caucasus

Regional Rapid Response Teams (RRRT) for a strengthened decentralized rescue system in Armenia



Project title	Regional Rapid Response Teams (RRRT) for a strengthened decentralized rescue system in Armenia
General information	Region: Shirak, Syunik and Yerevan Duration: January 2013 – December 2015 Budget: CHF 957'000
Project partners	The project is a direct action implemented by SDC in collaboration with <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES)• The Armenia Rescue Service (ARS) under the MES• Crises Management State Academy (CMA) under the MES• Crises Management Centre (CMC) under the ARS
Project objectives	The project's overall goal is to strengthen the decentralized rescue system in Armenia. This should be achieved through training and equipping the RRRT1). Furthermore ARS/CMA should be enabled to transfer acquired knowledge and capacities for building up 3 more RRRT's.
Background	Natural Disasters are very common in Armenia, such as landslides, floods, avalanches and sometimes man-made disaster, but mainly earthquakes (e.g. Spitak 1988 with 25'000 deaths and 517'000 homeless). The government has shown efforts to reduce the disaster risks by signing the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), developing a national DRR strategy and established the MES in 2005, and the ARS, with its central and regional branches. SDC has been engaged in DRR projects in Armenia since 2004 supporting the country's preparedness system, with the MES as the main project partner. Through a national wide project "Ardzagank" (2006-2010) and "Ardzagank": Medical Units" (2009-2013) im-

plemented in 6 regions, SDC supported the MES in building up a decentralized rescue system. As the MES requires external support due to limited financial resources and lack of expertise, they have approached SDC for it. Based on SDC's productive past collaboration, SDC can provide a relevant and visible contribution to further improve the rescue system in Armenia. This project is a logical continuation of the cooperation between SDC and the MES towards creating a rescue system, which covers national needs and is eager to follow international standards. (INSARAG).

Project activities

In frame of the project following activities are planned:

- Compilation of the 3 regional rescue teams, in Yerevan, Shirak and Syunik with the 47 multi-profile members in accordance to international requirements.
- Gender alignment in terms of trainings and equipment
- Distribution of the equipment to the 3 regions and storage
- Development of multi-level training modules
- Multi-level master trainings to the selected staff of CMA Trainings and exercises for the 3 RRRT by the CMA staff, coached by Swiss Experts and the Project Coordinator
- Strengthening connection with INSARAG through assisting MES
- Development of a model for project replication to other regions

Project results

The project has 4 main components building up the RRRT in accordance to INSARAG requirements: 1. Capacity building of the CMA; 2. Provision of equipment; 3. Training to the team members and 4. Model development for the experience replication to the other regions of Armenia as described in its 6 outputs:

- RRRT in the 3 regions are built up with appropriate staff members and provided with adequate equipment
- 20 selected trainers are enabled to transfer know-how to the remaining 3 RRRT
- 141 rescuers are trained for effective response operations
- Trainings, deployment/coordination procedures are improved, standardized and transferred by master trainers of the CMA
- CMA/ARS key staff is familiarized with INSARAG standards and they actively participate in relevant international events
- The model for replication is developed
- ARS/CMA is enabled to transfer acquired knowledge and capacities to the three replication regions Tavush, Kotayk and Gegharkunik within 2015/16



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