



Disaster Preparedness in Central Asia



Flood drill in Osh, Kyrgyzstan

Central Asia is among the most disaster-prone regions of the world. Since 2003 the European Commission has therefore supported communities and authorities in preparing for natural disasters through its DIPECHO programme.



Earthquake drill in a school, Tajikistan

Hazards and risks

The majority of the 55 million people living in the five republics of central Asia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, are at risk from an increasing number of natural hazards such as landslides, mudslides, floods and earthquakes. This is exacerbated by increasing population pressure on the environment and the effects of climate change such as melting glaciers..

Although progress has been made over the past few years, authorities and communities across the five countries still have only limited capacity to cope with the high risk of potentially very damaging natural disasters.

Responding with a disaster preparedness programme

Since 2003 the European Commission has funded 81 projects with €28.5 million through the European Commission's Disaster Preparedness Programme (DIPECHO). DIPECHO-funded projects increase resilience and reduce the vulnerability of local communities and institutions by supporting strategies which enable them to better prepare for, mitigate and respond to natural disasters.

Since 2003 more than 1,000 local community rescue teams were trained, about 1,000 disaster zones were mapped and around 250 early warning systems such as radio communication systems were established in the most dangerous locations of the region. In addition, more than 600 mitigation projects were carried out.

The achievements at the community level were strengthened by interventions aiming at reinforcing regional and national institutions specialized in disaster risk reduction (DRR), such as the design of regional or national strategies on DRR.

DIPECHO projects in Central Asia from April 2010 to August 2011

Partners and projects	€ 7.295 million
ACTED: improves the abilities of villagers and authorities in the Ferghana valley to manage disasters and minimise their negative effects.	<i>Tajikistan:</i> Soghd Oblast <i>Kyrgyzstan:</i> Osh, Jalal-Abad and Batken Oblasts
Oxfam: increases the capacity of 14 communities for disaster mitigation and preparedness.	<i>Tajikistan:</i> East Khatlon
Mission East: empowers 50 communities to strengthen their disaster response capacity by ensuring their inclusion in government disaster risk management planning.	<i>Tajikistan:</i> Dushanbe, Kulyab, Zeravshan valley
Netherlands Red Cross: increases resilience and reduce vulnerability of local communities and institutions through support to strategies that enable them to better prepare for, mitigate and respond to natural disasters.	<i>Tajikistan:</i> Sughd Oblast <i>Kyrgyzstan:</i> Osh, Jalal-Abad, Batken Oblasts <i>Uzbekistan:</i> Andijan, Ferghana, Navoi Kashkadarya, Namangan, Syrdarya and Tashkent Oblasts. <i>Turkmenistan:</i> Lebap, Balkan, Dashoguz, Ahal and Mary Oblasts <i>Kazakhstan:</i> Almaty, S. Kazakhstan Oblasts
FOCUS: strengthens disaster resilience of communities in isolated mountain areas through hazards/risk assessments, trainings, small-scale mitigation projects; enhances capacity of local government institutions to assess, prepare for and respond to disasters.	<i>Tajikistan:</i> Dushanbe, Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO). <i>Kyrgyzstan:</i> Chon-Alai district (Osh Oblast)
Save the Children: ensures that communities and local, national institutions are better able to mitigate, prepare and respond to disasters.	<i>Tajikistan:</i> Jilikul, Qumsangir, Jomi and Khuroson districts (Khatlon Oblast) <i>Kyrgyzstan:</i> Nookat, Karakulja districts (Osh Oblast), Kadamjay district (Batken Oblast)
UNICEF: ensures that national education policies incorporate elements of disaster preparedness; supports training programmes for teachers and officials; improves ability of schools/preschools to undertake disaster preparedness and risk reduction to enhance resilience.	<i>Central Asia:</i> Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan
UNDP: supports the setting-up of the Central Asian Center for Disaster Response and Risk Reduction in Almaty and develops the capacities of national and local authorities in disaster risk reduction.	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan



About the European Commission's Disaster Preparedness Programme (DIPECHO)

DIPECHO targets vulnerable people living in the main disaster-prone regions of the world. The objective is to reduce the impact of natural disasters on their lives by strengthening local physical and human resources. In parallel, DIPECHO raises awareness among decision makers for the need to integrate disaster risk reduction into longer term development policies.

DIPECHO projects are implemented by Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, UN agencies and international non-governmental organisations. In turn, these partner organisations work closely with local agencies.

For more information visit www.ec.europa.eu/echo or contact:

Dominique Feron, ECHO Dushanbe: Dominique.Feron@echo.tajnet.com

Malika Baimatova, ECHO Dushanbe: malika.baimatova@echo.tajnet.com