



Programme area n°23 Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

OBJECTIVE

Improved disaster resilience

AREAS OF SUPPORT

- > Risk and vulnerability competence and capacity
- > Prevention and reduction of existing and new risks and vulnerability
- > Disaster and crisis risk resilience at all levels and in all sectors of society

SUGGESTED MEASURES

- > Mainstreaming of disaster risk management to support resilient investments
- > Development and update of national acts and regulations based on relevant international commitments and recommendations
- > Development of national, regional and local risk assessment systems, including procedures and methods
- > Cross-border learning and cooperation on development and implementation of risk management policies and practices
- > Cross-border learning cooperation on disaster impacts
- > Guidance for disaster and crisis prevention based on best practices on cross-cutting themes
- > Capacity-building through technical support for critical infrastructure
- > Strengthening of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) safety and security
- > Strengthening of oil spill prevention management
- > Ensuring data availability, accessibility, sharing and comparability, aimed at establishing European standards and protocols for recording disaster losses

RELEVANCE OF SUPPORT

Disasters and climate risks have a major impact on the economy as well as on the security and well-being of citizens. In recent years, exposure to disasters has increased significantly due to climate change, rapid and unplanned urbanisation, demographic pressure, construction and more intensive land-use in hazard prone areas, biodiversity loss and eco-system degradation.

In the past decade, disasters and risk have increased direct overall losses with annual averages of 100 000 deaths and economic losses of more than € 100 billion worldwide. In the European Union, natural disasters have caused 80 000 deaths and € 95 billion in economic losses.¹

Impacts vary across regions depending on the geographic exposure to risk as well as level of socioeconomic development. While fatalities tend to be higher in developing countries and economic losses higher in developed economies, all countries are vulnerable to disasters.

Human development activities may carry significant inherent risks, caused or inflicted either by technical factors, human errors or malevolent actions – or a combination of these. Recent examples of this are the Fukushima nuclear accident in 2011 and the Deepwater Horizon oil disaster in 2010.

To address these alarming trend, risk prevention and management policies as well as concrete and sustainable safety and security measures are essential to ensure sustainable development and economic growth. Prevention and risk management make strong economic sense in terms of avoiding losses. Investments in disaster risk management also brings extended economic benefits and can act as a means of promoting jobs and help to ensure structural sustainability of public and private finances.

The programme area will further the implementation of relevant international obligations, recommendations and standards given by intergovernmental organisations such as the EU, the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and other UN organisations.

The revised EU Civil Protection legislation aims at a better (joint) response to natural and man-made disasters. A swift, pre-planned and effective response will increase the security of EU citizens and disaster victims. The activities shall contribute to realising the Europe 2020 strategy, the EU civil protection legislation and the UN post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction with a focus on prevention.

BILATERAL INTEREST

To reduce disaster risk and strengthen disaster risk resilience, sharing of knowledge and experience is crucial. The donor and beneficiary countries shall co-operate to develop prevention competence and capacity, ensuring that robust systems are in place when incidents occur.

¹ Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED)