

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

*Disaster Risk Reduction and Security in the OSCE Area**

Project Highlights **Central Asia**



- Bilateral training held for 6 districts and local authorities, 9 Aarhus Centres and media professionals
- 330 persons trained in rural communities
- 400 copies of public education materials distributed to residents
- Riverbed flood risk mitigation activity conducted
- Equipment provided to volunteer rescue teams in partner communities

TAJIKISTAN –

Ovchi and Kalacha

The Khoja-Bakirgan River basin runs through the Sughd region of Tajikistan and the southwestern part of Batken region of Kyrgyzstan. The Khoja-Bakirgan basin accommodates 26 communities, out of which 4 are located in Tajikistan and 22 in Kyrgyzstan.

Target villages of Ovchi and Kalacha in the Bobojon Gafurov district are located close to the border with Kyrgyzstan. Both villages are highly prone to disasters, especially to mudflows. Increased exposure of the residential properties as well as agricultural lands to disasters causes significant economic loss to the local population.

Additionally, a strategic highway connecting Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan runs along the Khoja-Bakirgan river. Damage to this highway due to disasters can hamper trade between the neighbouring communities and affect overall mobility. In the area, the majority of male population are labor migrants while women remain at home to manage the households.

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS:

- 120 community members from Ovchi and Kalacha villages were informed about DRR through 6 information sessions;
- The DRR Action Plan for Ovchi and Kalacha villages developed in close collaboration with the Local Committee of Emergency Situations and community members;
- The DRR Action Plan is presented to and discussed with relevant state structures, district administration and wider public;
- A pilot risk reduction activity, with participation from Committee of Emergency Situations and local residents, conducted to clean the flood prone parts of the Khoja-Bakirgan river. More than 4500 cubic meters of soil have been excavated from the river stream;
- Rescue brigades, consisting of volunteers from targeted communities, trained and provided with necessary equipment.



KYRGYZSTAN –

Maksat and Internatsional



Maksat and Internatsional villages are part of the Kulundu rural municipality, located in the south of Kyrgyzstan, bordering Tajikistan.

These villages are exposed to a number of serious disaster risks including flooding, earthquakes and landslides. Other factors, such as climate change and type of terrain amplify these risks and exposure to hazards.

Like the communities across the border in Tajikistan, these villages are also in the Khoja-Bakirgan river basin. This river feeds the irrigation canal Kulundu-Razzakov which periodically overflows due to its intake capacity. This adversely impacts both the local population, but also the infrastructure and farmlands of the area. That is why training on disaster risks targeted three other villages in addition to Maksat and Internatsional that have been affected by mudflows in the past.

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Two trainings held for 33 members of the Civil Defense Commission (CDC) and 22 members of the Voluntary Rescue Teams (VRTs);
- A training on the analysis of disaster risks for 20 participants from Maksat, Internatsional, Razzakov, Ak-Aryk and Bulak-Bashy villages;
- Action plan on the protection of the population during emergencies developed;
- GIS map of disaster risks of the area developed;
- Two voluntary rescue teams provided with supplies and equipment;
- Family Guidance on Emergency Preparedness and Response published and provided to the local community and to the Ministry of Emergency Situations;
- Civil Defense Commission members familiarized with the current legislation on civil defense and disaster risk reduction;
- Comprehensive simulation exercise to test manpower and resources before and during emergencies, including coordination with civil defence bodies in Tajikistan.



Supporting Cross-Border Learning and Co-operation

From 4 to 7 October 2016, the OSCE gathered over 60 representatives of emergency situations institutions at central and district level, local administrations and Aarhus Centres from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan for training on disaster risk reduction. This training was joined by a group of seven journalists and media trainers who provided useful content on how to communicate effectively with the public during disaster events and engaging stakeholders in preparing media content. The training course included a field visit to the village of Madaniyat in Jabbor Rasulov District of Tajikistan where participants had a chance to put to practice their understanding and assessment of risk concepts.

Marking the closure of Central Asia component of the project, the OSCE organized a meeting on 20 June 2017 in Osh, Kyrgyzstan that brought together representatives of emergency situation authorities, rural communities and Aarhus Centres from both countries to discuss project activities and results in their communities. Participants highlighted the need to increase capacities, both technical and operational, of local community emergency services and ensure that larger population in the area is aware of regulations on risk reduction and can contribute to local plans.

From our partners and beneficiaries:



The implemented project was on time and in line with the needs of communities to address the challenges related to community-based disaster risk management. The mitigation efforts made within the project contribute to the increase of resilience of local communities and decrease their vulnerability. In addition, public participation in revision of local planning documents enabled communities to take initiatives to increase their coping mechanisms in response to increasing global climatic changes.

Zuhridin Nuralliev,

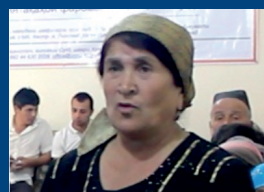
Head of Committee of Emergency Situations in Sughd region, Tajikistan

In order to advance our efforts on disaster risk reduction, it is necessary to take respective decisions and undertake measures to improve co-ordination, and set up a close co-operation with key agencies of the bordering districts of the Republic of Tajikistan. This particularly relates to conducting and planning joint activities on preparedness and capacity building of Civil Defense bodies, Civil Defense Commission on identifying and dealing with the impact of disasters in the cross-border territory. This project contributed to our joint efforts.



Azamat Asralov,

Senior Investment Specialist, Kulundu rural municipality, Kyrgyzstan



A few years ago our village was hit by massive flooding that destroyed many houses and damaged the farmlands. We are fortunate that the flooding did not happen the following years. International assistance we received to clean the river canal had a positive effect on the safety in our village.

Shahribonu Boboeva,

Chairperson of Mahalla Committee, Kalacha village

Activities conducted under the project in Kulundu rural municipality for the CDC and VRTs of Maksat and Internatsional villages were a timely intervention. As a result of the trainings, attendees received information on emergencies and strengthened their capacity. Trainers taught the members of CDC and VRT how to identify disaster prone areas, conduct planning exercise of efforts on disaster risk reduction, inform and prepare the population to cope with various emergencies.



Kanybek Isabaev,

Director of Aarhus Centre in Osh city, Kyrgyzstan



Each year, disasters cause significant material damage to social-economic facilities. Mitigating this risk can only be achieved through good co-operation, use of best practices, long-term planning and practical activities. As an Aarhus Centre, we play a crucial role in providing access to information and working with population at risk, as well as practical demonstration of mitigation activities in the target areas.

Ikrom Mamadov,

Director of Aarhus Centre Khujand, Tajikistan

We benefited from learning about civil defence and emergencies regulatory framework. The training for voluntary rescue teams and the simulation exercise that we participated in was a practical experience we gained from this project.

Zarbuva Tagaeva,

Medical Assistant, Member of the VRT, Maksat village



More information about OSCE activities can be found at:

www.osce.org/eea

www.osce.org/secretariat/disaster-risk-reduction



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe