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Resilient
Central Asia

Strengthening disaster resilience and accelerating implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Central Asia 2019-2023

Final Report



UNDRR
UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

Acknowledgments



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Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR)



Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)



CIMA Research Foundation (CIMA).



United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)



Abbreviations

ADPC	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
AKAH	Aga Khan Agency for Habitat
CADRI	Capacity Assessment for Disaster Reduction Initiative
CAI	Central Asia Initiative
CESDRR	Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction
CIMA	CIMA Research Foundation
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
EFDRR	European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction
MCR2030	Making Cities Resilient 2030
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SFM	Sendai Framework Monitor
SSMP	Small-scale Structural Mitigation Project
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNSDCF	United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
WHO	World Health Organization



Table of contents

Acknowledgments	2
Abbreviations	3
Part 1: Introduction	6
Key results	8
Overview	12
Disaster loss databases	12
National strategies	14
Regional coordination	15
Implementation of resilience assessments in cities across the region	16
Community-level resilience strengthening	17
Gender aspects	19
COVID-19 adjustments	19
Part 2: Detailed Overview	20
Component 1: Supporting the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR through data, governance and regional cooperation	21
Component 2: Increased commitments to build local level resilience	43
Part 3: A Way Forward	54
Annexes	58
Annex 1 – Logframe	58
Annex 2 – List of workshops, events and meetings	60
Annex 3 – List of policy documents, publications and communication materials	75
Annex 4 – Examples of Communications and Advocacy Materials	78

Part 1: Introduction



Central Asian countries face a variety of hazards, including earthquakes, technological hazards, floods, and glacier melting, leading to disasters and negative climate impacts. Floods and earthquakes alone affect 2.85 million people per year in Central Asia, causing an estimated annual loss of \$10 billion in the region¹. Extreme temperatures and droughts have already caused significant economic losses, and their impact is likely to increase with the effects of climate change. This risk profile heavily undermines the development capacity of those directly affected, of neighbouring countries, and of the entire Central Asia region. Disasters reverse hard-won development gains in Central Asia, while also increasing humanitarian needs.

In this context of intense and increasing risk, an urgent need to enhance capacity for prospective risk management and resilience building in Central Asia was recognised. In the early years of the 21st century, the focus of work related to disaster was on response rather than risk prevention and reduction. Risk information was limited on the regional, national and local scale, and coordinated governance mechanisms for addressing risk accumulation across sectors, scales and national boundaries were still to find a sustainable basis. It was this reality that gave the Central Asia Initiative (CAI) its central purpose: to strengthen disaster resilience and accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in Central Asia.

The CAI, implemented from August 2019 to February 2023 has had far-reaching impacts on climate and disaster resilience in Kazakhstan,

Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. It has triggered a shift in approach from managing disasters to managing risks, and generated an unprecedented momentum for risk reduction at the national and regional level. The interventions of the CAI developing disaster loss databases, supporting the development of national strategies, supporting regional cooperation platforms and frameworks, and enhancing resilience building capacity at the municipal and community level have catalysed a unique shift of understanding and practice in risk management in the region. Looking forward, the development of networks and capacities in the region that has been catalysed by the CAI will allow more investments to be risk informed, and increase the sustainability of livelihoods and economic growth. In all of these areas, the impact of the CAI has been transformative, providing the essential groundwork for the implementation of sophisticated risk reduction activities across the region.

From high-level ministerial dialogues to exchanges between academic and technical experts to associations of stakeholders at the local level, the CAI has ensured the basis for an organic and sustainable culture of disaster risk reduction in the coming years. As such, the European Commission driven Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) report recognised the CAI as “well-designed and effectively implemented, with timely delivery of the planned outputs”². Looking forward, it will be crucial to build upon the networks and capacities created by the CAI, seizing the opportunity to accelerate and amplify the shift from reactive to proactive risk management in Central Asia.

1 Europe and Central Asia - Country risk profiles for floods and earthquakes (English). Washington, D.C. : World Bank Group. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/958801481798204368/Europe-and-Central-Asia-Country-risk-profiles-for-floods-and-earthquakes>.
2 Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) reviews aim to assist the European Commission's (EC) services and EU Delegations (EUD) in monitoring of and reporting on EU financed development and cooperation projects and programmes in third countries through independent reviews of the progress of their implementation and the achievement of project results.

Key results



The first ever regional Strategy for Development of Cooperation of *Countries of Central Asia in Disaster Risk Reduction for 2022 - 2030*

The first ever Central Asia Regional Risk Profile, with national risk profiles updated in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

Central Asian countries represented at the highest levels in global and regional platforms for DRR in 2021 and 2022



Annually-held *Regional Forum - Meeting of Heads of Emergency Authorities of Central Asian countries* institutionalized and supported by CESDRR in 2020, 2021 and 2022

Close partnership with the CESDRR in Almaty, including intensive support to develop sustainable risk knowledge capacity

Strategic support to national disaster risk reduction (DRR) governance and planning in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan



The first ever National Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction officially established in Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan

Over **30** workshops and consultations building capacity for disaster loss accounting amongst key DRR stakeholders in the region, delivered across all five countries



‘Unique results achieved’ in the region during the time period of the CAI.

Mr. Dzhergalbek Ukashev, Director, Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR).



Three countries developed National Disaster Loss Databases using the DesInventar-Sendai data loss accounting system and trained groups of senior staff and operators in the practical application of the system

A total of **3,942** data cards created in DesInventar-Sendai, representing critical progress in disaster loss accounting in the region

Information from the updated INFORM index integrated into the Common Country Analysis in Kazakhstan, as well as in the Joint Plan of Action for the UN in Turkmenistan

Resilience reports produced with key recommendations for the development of local resilience strategies in Astana, Bishkek and Dushanbe



Resilience assessments run in **4** capital cities, including first-hand contributions to COVID-19 recovery efforts through Disaster Resilience Scorecard Public Health Addendum assessments run in Astana, Bishkek and Dushanbe



3 Capital Cities in the region join the Making Cities Resilience 2030 initiative



3 capital cities from Central Asia participated in the first ever Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) peer learning exchange in Greater Manchester, UK, a MCR2030 Resilience Hub

Close to **200,000** direct and indirect beneficiaries from community level awareness raising and structural mitigation measures

The CAI has seen a number of concrete achievements for disaster risk reduction in Central Asia. The first regional strategy building from the first regional risk profile. The first Central Asian cities incorporated into the Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) initiative and a direct contribution to local COVID-19 recovery through the implementation of the Disaster Resilience Scorecard Public Health Addendum in Central Asian capitals. The first National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Turkmenistan, and the development of national action plans to guide the implementation of national strategies in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. These unprecedented achievements have changed the landscape of disaster risk reduction in Central Asia.

The CAI has also catalyzed crucial advances in existing institutions and capacities. The systematic upgrading of capacity for disaster loss accounting across all five countries of the region, and the creation of vast numbers of new data cards in the DesInventar-Sendai system. The Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction has emerged as a sustainable hub of expertise and coordination in the region. Close to 200,000 people have benefited from community-level risk reduction actions.

Taken together, these revolutionary and evolutionary achievements represent a strong success for the Central Asian Initiative. The CAI has triggered a qualitative and quantitative shift in disaster risk reduction in the region. These successes represent a crucial foundation for disaster risk reduction in the region, and an opportunity for Central Asia to continue to progress towards risk-informed development.



Children performing during an event to mark the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, October 2022

Overview

Disaster loss databases

One key outcome of the CAI has been to support Central Asian countries to account for disaster loss in a way that aligns with international agreements, including the Sendai Framework. Initial steps in this area focused on providing a detailed assessment on the status and gaps related to disaster loss data collection in the region. The results of this assessment were consolidated and presented as a basis for the implementation of the DesInventar-Sendai loss accounting system. This implementation has been systematically supported through the provision of

technical workshops on the DesInventar-Sendai system. These workshops focused on core operating principles, the creation of specific data cards, and interoperability with the Sendai Framework Monitor (SFM) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) reporting. In total, 3942 data cards were created, providing a detailed account of disaster losses at a sub-regional level from 1990 - 2022. As a result, all countries in the region have developed technical working groups which are capable of inputting and managing data on disaster risk reduction in a systematic manner,

and have received software for the implementation of the DesInventar-Sendai system. Further, each of the countries received a set of methodological and analytical materials developed and translated into Russian by UNDRR, enabling wider engagement and country ownership in the process of assessing and collecting disaster loss data. The CAI has therefore enabled the development of capacity to account for data loss in a systematic manner in the region.



"Disaster risk reduction strategies and policies define goals and objectives across different timescales and with concrete targets, indicators and time frames. In line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, these should be aimed at preventing the creation of disaster risk, the reduction of existing risk and the strengthening of economic, social, health and environmental resilience." (As agreed by the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology related to disaster risk reduction)

Assessment of the National DRR Strategy of Tajikistan

October 2021



National strategies

The CAI has also succeeded in strengthening national strategies for disaster risk reduction in the region. The work of the CAI in this area proceeded from an assessment of the existing stakeholders and capacity in DRR at a national level, ensuring a participatory approach to promote national ownership of recommendations where possible. UNDRR focused on enhancing capacity to develop high-quality risk reduction strategies at the level of national government, including through dedicated Action Plans developed through expert consultations, workshops and engagement with Sendai National Focal Points and National Platforms for DRR. In particular, UNDRR supported improvements of disaster risk management frameworks, including by stress testing risk management systems through scenario-based

approaches, which recognise the systemic nature of risk and involve a wider range of stakeholders in risk management. The outcome of this work has been diverse, depending on the particular stage of the strategic planning cycle that different countries exist in. In all contexts, though, the networks established by the engagement of UNDRR in assessment and capacity building at the national level have influenced the development of more sophisticated strategic thinking and planning in the area of disaster risk reduction. In Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, UNDRR's interventions have been directly incorporated into national strategic planning and governance, while contributions and recommendations in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are still to be endorsed by authorities.

Regional coordination

The development of enhanced regional coordination has been a core success of the CAI. As a result of the project, there is an unprecedented level of political and technical engagement at the regional and transboundary level. This is most obvious with the development and endorsement of the first-ever regional *Strategy for Development of Cooperation of Countries of Central Asia in Disaster Risk Reduction for 2022 - 2030* (herein referred to as "Regional Strategy"), which codifies and specifies a common commitment to implementing risk reduction and resilience building activities amongst the five countries of the region, building from the insights of the Regional Risk Profile developed as part of the initiative. The Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR) in Almaty has been a critical partner in this push for coordination. Over the time period of the CAI,

UNDRR has supported CESDRR to become a central hub of knowledge and capacity for risk reduction in the region. As a result, CESDRR hosts and provides region-wide disaster risk information and support, and played a key role in generating the common understanding of issues which informed the signing of the Regional Strategy. UNDRR supported also the organization of the annually held Regional Forum – Meeting of Heads of Emergency Management Authorities of Central Asian Countries (herein referred to as "Regional Forum") in 2020, 2021 and in 2022, and mobilised countries in dialogue over issues emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, the signing of the Regional Strategy, and the strength of regional hubs of technical and political exchange on risk reduction, demonstrate the significant successes of the CAI in the area of regional coordination.



As part of this network, municipal officials from Astana, Kazakhstan, and Dushanbe, Tajikistan, took part in the first MCR2030 peer learning exchange organized in 2022 with the city of Greater Manchester, United Kingdom, which is a Resilience Hub in the MCR2030 network. The exchange focused on risk assessments, early warning systems, and governance. Overall, the implementation of resilience assessments at the municipal level as part of the CAI has catalysed a greater understanding of the specific conditions of risk reduction in cities across the region, fed directly into the creation of new strategic plans in multiple cities, and triggered a positive dynamic to further engage with the target cities and secondary cities on urban resilience.

Community-level resilience strengthening

UNDRR mobilised partners in the region to develop resilience at the community level, working with the IFRC and National Red Crescent Societies to implement small-scale mitigation measures and increase the knowledge and skills of communities. National Red Crescent Societies extended this partnership by signing agreements with communities most at risk, forming disaster governance arrangements at the community level and ensuring that investments were demand-driven and responsive to community needs. Representative mitigation efforts include reinforcing river embankments, building mud stream protection walls, cleaning ditches and canals, planting

trees for slope stabilization, and prevention measures for landslides and floods. In addition, 50 schools were targeted as key sites to develop knowledge and skills at the community level. Awareness raising activities such as the development and dissemination of information materials, DRR lessons and debates, and essay competitions all contributed to the enhancement of capacity for resilience building at the community level. In total, from 2020 - 2023, 65 disaster-prone communities across the five Central Asian countries were supported to build their resilience, with 53,172 people benefiting from the project directly and 142,992 people benefiting from the project indirectly.

Implementation of resilience assessments in cities across the region

The CAI's commitment to strengthen urban resilience was positively received in all countries. In Ashgabat (Turkmenistan), Astana (Kazakhstan), Bishkek (Kyrgyz Republic), and Dushanbe (Tajikistan), technical working groups were established to coordinate the assessment process at the municipal level, which ensured the ownership of methodology and results by national and local personnel. This supported the assessment of existing levels of resilience to disasters in each city through the Disaster Resilience Scorecard and the Public Health Systems Disaster Resilience Scorecard. Despite preliminary missions and advocacy efforts, the initiative did not manage to obtain similar results with the city of Tashkent (Uzbekistan). While the scorecard assessment tool was introduced in Ashgabat to a wide range of representatives from the Main Department for Civil Defense and Rescue Operations of the Ministry of Defense, and to city administration departments responsible for emergency situations, environmental protection, communal services, education, energy, transport, and other units, its further elaboration is yet to take place. In Astana, Bishkek and Dushanbe the results of the assessment process were successfully elaborated to produce recommendations for strengthening resilience at the municipal level, which have been incorporated into the development of new or updated resilience plans. In particular, by running the Disaster Resilience Scorecard Public Health Addendum, the cities strengthened their understanding and awareness of public health system resilience relevant to global recovery efforts during the COVID-19 crisis. Astana, Bishkek and Dushanbe have joined the Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) initiative, linking up with cities worldwide to share expertise and develop capacity for risk reduction.





Gender aspects

The CAI systematically ensured the inclusion of considerations of gender from the earliest stages of project design. In conceptualising project activities, the CAI made use of World Bank and GFDRR guiding documents including on Gender Dimensions of Disaster Risk and Resilience,³ and Inclusive Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Gender Equality.⁴ The design of the CAI proceeded from the premise that disasters do not impact all people equally: that women can be disproportionately impacted by disasters, and that interventions must recognise this reality in order to ensure both equity and effectiveness. The CAI therefore ensured that women played a key role in capacity enhancement workshops with national partners. Across the course of this EU action, women involved in disaster management at all levels of governance in all five partner countries were trained in resilience assessment, disaster risk communication and database maintenance. This engagement with female stakeholders and leaders in the Central Asia region has supported women with greater access to resources and decision-making and with processes of skill development. Furthermore, the CAI saw women directly supported by community-based DRR activities in the region, including as members of local disaster management committees, whilst many more became the beneficiaries of work to enhance communities knowledge and skills to deal with disaster and climate risk, both as teachers and members of the general population. To this extent, the initiative has directly enhanced the quality of living of women in the region through activities which increase resilience to natural hazards. As well as enhancing resilience for all populations across Central Asia, the CAI systematically accounted for and sought to address the differential disaster experience of women. Through CAI support, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan also made great progress in disaggregating data by sex, age and disability, as reflected in the Sendai Framework Monitor.

COVID-19 adjustments

The implementation of the CAI progressed strongly despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic over the period of the project. In the face of restrictions on travel and in-person meetings, UNDRR adapted its planned activities and organized virtual capacity development, advocacy, and information events in 2020 and 2021. These events included local, national, and regional workshops and discussions, hosted using online platforms with live sign language interpretation. In addition to these technical adjustments, UNDRR also developed a substantive response to the COVID-19 pandemic. A Central Asian Ministerial Dialogue on COVID-19 was organized in 2020 as part of the CAI, focusing on overlaps between the Sendai Framework and the International Health Regulations (2005). Further, the Public Health System Resilience Addendum to the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities was developed to provide a methodology for assessment of the resilience of the public health sector to biological hazards. Institutions that made use of this tool include national Ministries of Health in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan - the World Health Organization, and other stakeholders. In addition, UNDRR included the theme of resilience to biological threats in the review and assessment of national strategies for disaster risk reduction and in its assessment of the existing capacity of national DRR systems. With the gradual easing of COVID-19 restrictions, UNDRR switched to organizing workshops, meetings, and other events with physical participation in 2021 and 2022.

3 Erman, Alvina; De Vries Robbe, Sophie Anne; Thies, Stephan Fabian; Kabir, Kayenat; Maruo, Mirai. 2021. Gender Dimensions of Disaster Risk and Resilience : Existing Evidence. World Bank, Washington, DC. © World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/35202> License: CC BY 3.0 IGO.

4 World Bank. Inclusive Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Gender Equality Work Plan (English). Washington, D.C. : World Bank Group. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/099920002112213088/P1765160fbc4970d10b6540ac706be6b1ef>

Part 2: Detailed Overview



Component 1: Supporting the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR through data, governance and regional cooperation

Output 1-1. Disaster losses are measured and aligned with international agreements

Activity 1-1: Direct support to countries in establishing disaster damage and loss accounting mechanisms that are aligned to Sendai Framework and provide disaggregation at the lowest administrative level.

Impact

- **The CAI has led to the development of a sophisticated capacity to account for disaster damage and loss in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.**

Key activities

- **Gap assessments** - The CAI performed context and gap assessment of the disaster loss data management systems in five partner countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. This included an overview of the existing systems of disaster loss data collection in the five countries, as well as the main organizations and institutions in charge of its management. UNDRR supported countries to assess existing systems and mechanisms for collecting disaster loss data, including the degree of disaggregation by gender, age and disability at the lowest administrative levels, information on entities and organizations involved in such data collection, and the systems of transfer of data within government structures and levels. Recommendations for the strengthening of disaster loss data accounting and data collection for Sendai Framework Monitor reporting were then provided to each country. The results of the assessment were consolidated at the end of September 2020 and presented as a basis for the implementation of DesInventar-Sendai loss accounting system in the five countries of Central Asia.
- **Capacity building workshops** - UNDRR organized and conducted a series of national workshops and technical consultations in each country. In all countries, workshops focused on building capacity for data collection and management, centred on assessment of existing systems and familiarisation with DesInventar Sendai in 2020, the production of data cards and practical skills in 2021 and interoperability with different monitoring systems in 2022. In total, each country received six national capacity building workshops in disaster loss accounting, supplemented by at least three consultative meetings with Sendai Technical Focal Points and other disaster management specialists. Each of the countries also received a set of methodological and analytical materials developed and translated into Russian by UNDRR, enabling wider engagement and country ownership in the process of assessing and collecting disaster loss data. The DesInventar-Sendai system has also been installed and configured on the local server of the CIMA Research Foundation, complete with identification logins for four partner countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.

In Kazakhstan:

- The government assigned a national focal point for coordinating the collaboration in disaster loss data management. A Technical Working Group was established, consisting of over 40 technical staff from the headquarters and regional structures of the Ministry of Emergency Situations, and 15 representatives of municipal and regional executive authorities across the country. The Technical Working Group confirmed its commitment by active participation in workshops, sharing information, and advising UNDRR on the current regulations and norms in loss data management.
- The active engagement of the Technical Working Group ensured the development of a data card aligned to both national legislation and to the requirements of DesInventar-Sendai: in total 390 data cards were created, spanning a period from 1993 - 2021. Data on deaths, missing, injured people, and people whose dwellings and livelihoods were affected was disaggregated by sex and age for all events where that information was available. Attendance at workshops in Kazakhstan over the course of the project totalled 166, spanning government ministries, municipal authorities and technical staff at CESDRR.

Resilient

Strengthening Disaster Resilience - Accelerating Implementation of the Sendai Framework Programme

Central Asia

DesInventar Risk Profile

The DesInventar Sendai Risk Profile has been prepared by collecting disaster loss data using the DesInventar Sendai system since 2021 in the framework of the "National Disaster Loss Databases implementation in Central Asia" project. It is based on information collected for the period of 1993-2022. However, the data entry process on historical disasters is continuing. The process of disaster loss data collection is in the starting point, and risk profile will require further reviewing to reflect the current situation of disasters in the country.

To further strengthen the loss data collection on past disasters, the DesInventar Sendai system will specify the country risk profile and make it reliable. As an official tool for disaster loss data accounting, the DesInventar Sendai system will strength capabilities of national Civil Protection authorities in systematic collection and analysis of information on disasters, Sendai Framework reporting and in taking adaption measures on disaster risk reduction.

Country overview

The current database contains data for the period between 1993-2022. The limited number of records were registered currently for the period 1993-2020, while most of the events (i.e., 370, 95%) are very recent and related to the years 2021 and 2022. Thus, the present risk profile can be defined as a starting risk profile, which will change within collecting data.

Reported data for the period 1992-2022

● TOTAL NUMBER OF EVENTS: 390 DATA CARDS

● NUMBER OF DEATHS: 999

● NUMBER OF PEOPLE AFFECTED DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY: 267.000

● NUMBER OF HOUSES AFFECTED DAMAGED AND DESTROYED: 390

● TOTAL ECONOMIC LOSS: 1.1MILLION \$ THE EXCHANGE RATE VARIES FOR EACH YEAR.

The total economic loss reflects only reported data, but not actual loss. No estimation has been made based on the damage to the assets since the national methodology for the economic loss assessment is in development.

Hazard frequency:

FOREST FIRE 22%

URBAN FIRE 20%

WATER INCIDENTS 17%

STORM, HURRICANE, SQUALL 14%

OTHER 27%

Forest fire is the most common hazard registered, followed by Urban fires, Drowning victims, and Storms, Hurricane, Squall. Together these four hazards cover 73% of the available records.

Geographical distribution of events

All maps were developed based on geographical boundaries provided by the Database of Global Administrative Areas (GADM) project¹⁵. The maps illustrate the geographical distribution of disasters across regions and provinces in the country. The spatial distribution of disaster ranges from more than 40 events to less than 1 event at regional level and from more than 5 events to less than 1 event at provincial level. Therefore, the most affected regions are Karaganda, Kostanay, Turkestan, Atyrau and Pavlodar.

This map is showing provinces with the highest number of disaster events.

24

- UNDRR and CIMA developed a national risk profile in Kazakhstan. The profile encompasses the temporal and spatial distribution of risk, as well as statistics on key indicators of the Sendai Framework such as mortality and economic losses. This profile provides a crucial basis for sustainable progress in risk understanding and governance at the national level.
- Looking forward, the Technical Working Group has capacity for collecting data, entering the data, data storage, and using the format for managing general and detailed data on losses caused by disasters. The process was rehearsed in a closed-circuit format between the Technical Working Group and UNDRR, and the country received the software and equipment required for operating the new system. Following this capacity enhancement, the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Kazakhstan informed UNDRR that the national system of loss accounting meets their expectations and needs, and that it had commenced testing of the DesInventar-Sendai data collection system with its departments in 18 regions of the country.

25



A training workshop on "DesInventar-Sendai" in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in April 2022

In Kyrgyzstan:

- The Sendai Framework Technical Focal Point led engagement with the CAI, alongside a Technical Working Group that consists of 25 representatives from a range of departments and services of the Ministry of Emergency Situations, including the crisis management system and a range of ministries and agencies.
- The active engagement of the Technical Working Group ensured the development of a data card aligned to both national legislation and to the requirements of DesInventar-Sendai: in total, 3496 data cards were created, spanning the period from 1992 - 2022. Data on deaths, missing, injured people, and people whose dwellings and livelihoods were affected was disaggregated by sex and age for all events where that information was available. Attendance at workshops in Kyrgyzstan over the course of the project totalled 164, spanning government ministries, provincial and municipal authorities, and technical staff at specialised institutes on seismology and GIS mapping. Upon completion of this series of workshops and technical consultative meetings, the Ministry of Emergencies confirmed that the new data

management system meets the expectations and needs of the country.

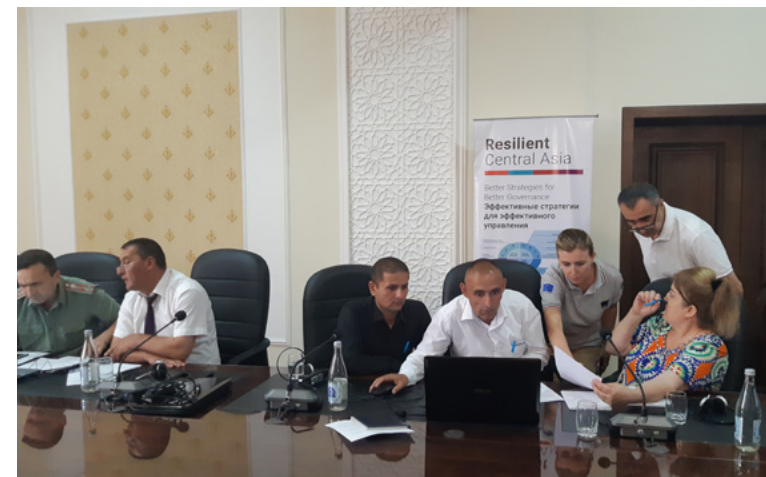
- UNDRR and CIMA developed a national risk profile in Kyrgyzstan. The profile encompasses the temporal and spatial distribution of risk, as well as statistics on key indicators of the Sendai Framework such as mortality and economic losses. This profile provides a crucial basis for sustainable progress in risk understanding and governance at the national level.
- Looking forward, the national Technical Working Group is capable of collecting and entering data, data storage, and using the system for managing general and detailed information of losses caused by disasters. The process was rehearsed in a closed-circuit format between the Technical Working Group and the UNDRR support facility, and the country received the software and the equipment required for operating the new system. The Ministry of Emergencies received technical assistance from UNDRR for the internal application of the DesInventar system, and started testing the new system in late 2022.



A training workshop on "DesInventar-Sendai" in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in May 2022

In Tajikistan:

- The Sendai Framework Technical Focal Point headed the organization of the multi-stakeholder Technical Working Group, composed of 24 technical specialists of the Committee for Emergency Situations, Committee for Statistics and other organizations. The Technical Working Group collaborated with UNDRR in the analysis of the current system of loss data collection and processing, and contributed to the development of customized data cards compatible with national regulations and the recommendations of the DesInventar-Sendai system.
- The active engagement of the Technical Working Group ensured the development of a data card aligned to both national legislation and to the requirements of DesInventar-Sendai: in total, 56 data cards on major events were created, spanning the period from 1990 - 2022. Data on deaths, missing, injured people, and people whose dwellings and livelihoods were affected was disaggregated by sex and age for all events where that information was available. Attendance at workshops and consultations in Tajikistan over the course of the project totalled 60, spanning government ministries, provincial authorities, and technical staff at specialised institutes on seismology and GIS mapping.
- UNDRR and CIMA developed a national risk profile in Tajikistan. The profile encompasses the temporal and spatial distribution of risk, as well as statistics on key indicators of the Sendai Framework such as mortality and economic losses. This profile provides a crucial basis for sustainable progress in risk understanding and governance at the national level.
- Looking forward, members of the national Technical Working Group developed capacity in collecting and entering data, data storage, and in using the data format for managing general and detailed information of losses caused by disasters. The process was rehearsed in a closed-circuit format between the Technical Working Group and the UNDRR support facility, and the country received the software and equipment required for operating the new system. The Committee for Emergency Situations received technical assistance from UNDRR for the internal application of the DesInventar system in 2022, which provided the basis for independent testing of the system.



In Turkmenistan:

- The Ministry of Defense led engagement with the CAI, creating a Technical Working Group which consisted of 20 specialists from various departments in the Ministry. The Technical Working Group, jointly with UNDRR, developed the data card and list of hazards for the DesInventar-Sendai trial version for Turkmenistan.
- Consistent with other countries, workshops focused on building capacity for data collection and management, especially through the prioritisation of data cards and practical skills in two workshops in 2021.
- The active engagement of the Technical Working Group ensured the development of a data card aligned to both national legislation and to the requirements of DesInventar-Sendai. Attendance at workshops in
- Turkmenistan over the course of the project included technical specialists and unit Heads from government ministries.
- Looking forward, the national Technical Working Group is now capable of collecting and entering disaggregated data, its further management and storage, and using the data format for managing general and detailed information on losses caused by disasters for identifying tendencies in risk and hazard profiles. The Technical Working Group rehearsed the disaster loss data management process in a closed-circuit format with the UNDRR support facility and the country received the software required for operating the new system.

Workshop of the Interagency Working Group for DRR in (National Platform for DRR) in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, in September 2022



In Uzbekistan:

- A Technical Working Group consisting of 15 specialists from the Ministry of Emergency Situations was established to collaborate with UNDRR in developing the national system for managing data on losses caused by disasters.
- Consistent with other countries, workshops with the Technical Working Group focused on building capacity for data collection and management, centred on assessment of existing systems and familiarisation with DesInventar Sendai in 2020, the production of data cards and practical skills in 2021 and interoperability with different monitoring systems in 2022. The country subsequently received the software required for operating the new system.
- At the date of the closure of CAI, the formal endorsement of the system and its process was not finalized by national authorities, and has prevented taking forward next steps, including the collection of historical data sets.

Sendai Framework Monitor:

All five Central Asian countries submitted online reports on the implementation of the Sendai Framework in 2020, with four countries reporting on it in 2021. The degree of disaggregation and completeness of information in the Sendai Monitor report has improved as a result of the development of DesInventar-Sendai disaster loss accounting systems. For example, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan have provided up-to-date data on mortality, economic losses, and local DRR strategies, and Tajikistan has included data on the number of disruptions to basic services attributed to disasters. It is also important to note outstanding progress such as the disaggregation of data by sex, age and disability performed by Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in the Sendai Framework Monitor. In 2020, the Government of Turkmenistan started reporting on their national progress in implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction using the online Sendai Framework Monitor (SFM). CESDRR, with UNDRR support, became the source of expertise and capacity building on national reporting on the Sendai Framework Monitor through a series of training courses. Furthermore, CESDRR organized regional and individual consultative meetings every six months as part of the CAI to support specific aspects of Sendai Framework Monitor reporting.

Activity 1-2: Support to develop holistic national DRR strategies taking into account natural or man-made hazards, the contributions of climate change to disaster risk, as well as related environmental, technological and biological hazards & establishment of multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms.

Impact

- The CAI has led to the development of governance arrangements and technical knowledge that have provided direct support to strategic action on risk reduction across the region. In particular, UNDRR has provided direct support to the development of strategic planning in risk reduction in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, and the creation of National Platforms for DRR in Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan. The assessment of the existing national DRR strategy of Uzbekistan identified strengths and areas of progress which were communicated to national authorities.

Key activities

- **Assessment** - UNDRR conducted an extensive assessment process to provide a foundation of understanding for DRR arrangements and activities in all Central Asian countries. The process included a DRR context assessment, which consisted of mapping risk profiles, legislation, and roles and regulations of DRR governance across different agencies, as well as a desk review of the national plans for emergency management and DRR. UNDRR further conducted desk reviews and assessments of governing legislation and regulatory documents, stakeholder analysis of the key players in the DRR systems, and analysis of existing capacities for DRR. A series of online meetings were held to plan workshops and training across all the Central Asian countries. A series of initial discussions with national counterparts were held to plan support activities, workshops and trainings across the five Central Asian countries. This process induced a collaborative assessment of strategic plans, existing legislations and governance mechanisms, aiming to support awareness raising and concrete progress on DRR governance at national level.
- **Methodology** - UNDRR developed a conceptual approach and methodology for developing agile and effective disaster risk management and governance systems in Central Asian countries. The methodology is based on a systems approach and presents a combination of processes for strengthening DRR governance, taking into account a wide range of hazards and stakeholders. The approach was combined with a scenario-based approach with the stress testing of capacities, organised through a series of workshops and stakeholder assessments integrated in the broader methodology – applied in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. The approach aimed to improve both the efficiency of the national DRR strategies and the operational capacities of National Platforms for DRR in target countries. The methodology is tailored to the specific requirements of each country, providing a step-by-step approach to improved governance. The application of this methodology at the national level was the key mechanism through which UNDRR supported countries to move beyond assessment of existing capacities and gaps towards the development of improved systems for disaster governance.
- **Support to strategic planning** - The networks generated through this extended process of assessment and methodology dissemination provided UNDRR an opportunity to support capacity for the development of strategic documents for DRR. As part of the CAI, UNDRR was able to deliver capacity assessment and capacity building workshops on national coordination mechanisms, provide technical support for the establishment of National Platforms for DRR and provide specific recommendations on strategic documents at the national level. These activities provided concrete support to the development of national strategic documents that deal with DRR. The creation of new governance arrangements and development of risk management capacities are crucial in the effective development and implementation of more sophisticated strategic planning for risk reduction in Central Asian countries.

Key achievements

In Kazakhstan

- UNDRR conducted a desk assessment and stakeholder analysis of the key players of the DRR system in the country and developed a conceptual approach and outline for the new Strategic Concept on DRR. This Strategic Concept was then submitted to the Ministry of Emergency Situations for consideration and inclusion in strategic documents, part of which are classified and not accessible to UNDRR.
- UNDRR provided specific recommendations and suggestions to the Ministry of the Emergency Situations on the draft strategic concept. The new strategy is expected to be the first official document outlining a vision of Kazakhstan that prioritizes disaster risk reduction and emergency management. As such, it will create new possibilities for development partners to effectively engage in supporting the country in the fields of climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and emergency management.

In Kyrgyzstan

- UNDRR conducted a stakeholder analysis of the DRR system and a capacity assessment of the disaster risk management (DRM) system in the country, using a participatory approach including a scenario-based stress testing approach to increase the ownership of the outcome by local stakeholders. Subsequently, recommendations for strengthening the capacity of the national disaster risk management system were developed through a dedicated workshop with a group of national and international experts. Key stakeholders were then capacitated on the principles and operations of a systems approach to DRR, and the role and functions of the National Platform for DRR. Altogether, the process engaged 90 national and international experts.
- The results of the DRM system capacity assessment, stress testing and planning were incorporated into an ongoing strategic review at national level. They also informed the development of the new Action Plan for the second phase of implementation of the DRR Strategic Concept of the Government of Kyrgyzstan for the period of 2023-2026.
- UNDRR partnered with UNECE to ensure adequate consideration of technological and industrial risks into governance efforts and strategic planning. This effort resulted in a country-specific context analysis of these areas, and a detailed set of recommendations structured around Sendai Framework priorities. The analyses and recommendations were presented to national authorities during the Regional Forum in 2022 as well as during the final meeting of the CAI. See the annex for more information.

National workshop on strengthening DRR governance and enhancing the activities of the National Platform for DRR of Kyrgyzstan in Bishkek, May 2021



- UNDRR was requested by the Government of Kyrgyzstan to organize and facilitate several workshops and capacity building events for analyzing and identifying national coordination needs in DRR. This included a workshop on the capacity assessment of the DRM system in the country and a workshop on strengthening the National Platform for DRR. Further, UNDRR developed a set of documents for registering the National Platform, including the concept, mandate, composition, internal structure, and mode of operation. The set of documents was shared with the Government for internal review. In November 2022, the Government of Kyrgyzstan issued a government resolution endorsing the National Platform as the mechanism for coordination of disaster risk reduction activities in the country.

In Tajikistan

- UNDRR conducted a desktop review and stakeholder analysis identifying the roles, functions and engagement of key institutions and structures in DRR. UNDRR also conducted a comprehensive assessment of the multidimensional capacities of the existing DRM system in the country.
- A workshop on the systems approach to DRM was held in May 2021, engaging a group of specialists from a range of national institutions. A series of Disaster Risk Perception Index assessments (in May, July and October 2021) and a workshop providing an overview of the capacity assessment of the DRM System (October 2021), were also delivered.
- UNDRR established an expert group and delivered the assessment of the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction. The group, consisting of representatives of United Nations agencies, research and donor institutions, and independent experts based in Tajikistan and in other countries, worked on 80 indicators in line with SDGs and Sendai Framework recommendations. The expert assessment report was submitted to the Government and presented at the meeting of the National Platform for DRR.
- UNDRR coordinated the production of analysis and recommendations for the Mid-Term State Program 2023-2028 and Action Plan 2023-2025 for the implementation of the National DRR Strategy. Working with the United Nations Country Team in Tajikistan, these recommendations were submitted to national partners and then incorporated directly into these documents.

Experts from the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction of Tajikistan and other key stakeholders gathered to develop the monitoring and information sharing mechanism



Experts from the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction of Tajikistan and other key stakeholders gathered in a workshop to validate the results of a stress test of the country's disaster risk management system in 2022

- In Tajikistan, UNDRR organized the first stress testing of a national DRR system to be conducted in Central Asia. This process included the participation of national and international experts, implementing the stress-testing methodology developed by UNDRR. The findings of the stress testing and of the DRR system capacity assessment were subsequently shared with the Government for inclusion in the plans for implementation of the national DRR strategy. The Action Plan for DRM System Capacity Development was presented and recommended for implementation at the National DRR Platform meeting.
- UNDRR partnered with UNECE to ensure adequate consideration of technological and industrial risks into governance efforts and strategic planning. This effort resulted in a country-specific context analysis of these areas, and a detailed set of recommendations structured around Sendai Framework priorities.
- UNDRR facilitated development of the monitoring and information sharing mechanism to enable the National Platform for DRR to monitor and coordinate implementation of the national DRR strategy by relevant stakeholders.
- Looking forward, it is expected that UNDRR's strategic engagements and consultations in the country will be followed by a participatory planning process for strengthening the overall capacities of the DRM system in the country in 2023. The focus is on the development of an action plan to support the implementation of the DRR strategy, and assistance to increase the transparency and accountability of stakeholders in disaster risk management.

In Turkmenistan

- UNDRR advocacy and consultations throughout the project timespan led concretely to the Government of Turkmenistan seeking to strengthen national coordination mechanism of the State Program for Implementation of Primary Areas of State Policy in the Field of Civil Defense. UNDRR, through a series of meetings with the National Focal Point, developed a set of documents for establishing a National Platform for DRR. These documents, which included a draft concept, mandate, composition, internal structure, and mode of operation for the national mechanism of coordination in DRR, were submitted to the Government of Turkmenistan.
- In August 2021, the Government of Turkmenistan officially informed the UN Resident Coordinator about the endorsement of a National Platform for DRR consisting of 16 government agencies, with its mandate and functions established in accordance with the concept and recommendations provided by UNDRR.
- At the end of 2021, a new MOU was signed between the UN Country Team and the Government of Turkmenistan on strengthening the country's capacities in addressing climate change and disaster risks. This new document creates possibilities for more active engagement of development partners in the area of disaster risk management.

Workshop of the Interagency Working Group for DRR in (National Platform for DRR) in Asgabat, Turkmenistan, in September 2022



Workshop of the Interagency Working Group for DRR in (National Platform for DRR) in Asgabat, Turkmenistan, in September 2022

In Uzbekistan

- UNDRR provided an in-depth assessment of Uzbekistan's National Strategy for Achieving the Goals of Sendai Framework for DRR during 2019-2030, mobilising an assessment committee composed of European National Sendai Focal Points, members of the European Science and Technology Advisory Group, and other relevant experts.



Output 1-2. Stronger engagement established between Central Asian countries

Activity 1-3: Engagement of Central Asia and South Caucasus member states at the Global Platform for DRR and European Forum for DRR (EFDRR) including a consultation to share best practices and foster regional cooperation.

Activity 1-4: At least One training per year organised at the Centre for CA Member States.

Activity 1-5: Work with partner, such as relevant technical organisations, to develop regional risk profile that includes climate projection for Central Asia countries highlighting the trends and impact on productive sector.

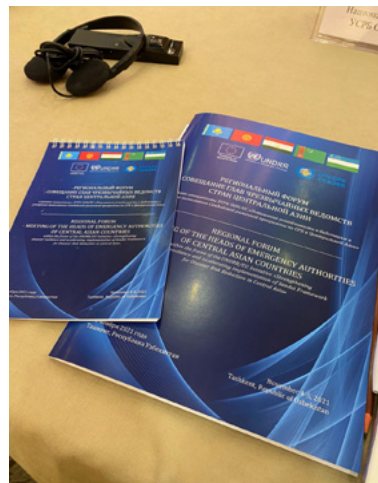
Activity 1-6: Establishment of a regional loss accounting system which will build trust amongst member states for the centre, retain capacity and will allow it to establish direct dialogue between the countries.

Impact

- The CAI has led to an unprecedented flourishing of political and technical engagement at the regional level in Central Asia. This is symbolised both by the signing of the regional *Strategy for Development of Cooperation of Countries of Central Asia in Disaster Risk Reduction for 2022 - 2030* and the enhanced capacity of the Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR) to function as a sustainable hub of regional expertise for risk reduction.

Key activities

- **Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR)** - In the period of the CAI, UNDRR has cooperated with CESDRR to develop the capacities and networks necessary to entrench its position as the foremost hub of knowledge on risk reduction in the region. UNDRR has worked with CESDRR management and technical staff to implement a range of activities that support regional coordination and cooperation in Central Asia, including through support in establishing working relationships with Central Asian countries and training-of-trainers courses on Sendai Framework Monitor reporting. This support has allowed CESDRR to provide support to the annual Forum of National Disaster Management Authorities of Central Asia countries in 2020, 2021 and 2022 and to guide the specificities of the draft regional strategy and regional risk profile. CESDRR has provided basic and refresher training and consultations to 16 Sendai Technical Focal Points and additional staff of national disaster management authorities (NDMAs) through 20 online sessions on national reporting of the implementation of the Sendai Framework. Furthermore, UNDRR has capacitated CESDRR to host regional disaster risk data and the regional disaster loss database as appropriate. The capacities and networks of CESDRR are a crucial success in regional coordination under the CAI, representing a sustainable and regionally-owned momentum for stronger engagement beyond national borders.
- **Recruitment of Experts** - To support stronger engagement of countries that are not officially members of CESDRR, UNDRR recruited DRR experts to manage regional coordination in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The experts coordinated exchanges between CESDRR and their respective countries, ensuring that the interests and concerns of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were communicated to the CESDRR and to the other countries, to ensure participation in regional initiatives and activities. Typical areas of activity for the expert consultants included facilitating information exchange amongst various stakeholders, disseminating CESDRR's regular COVID-19 information bulletins at the national level, and identifying areas in need of capacity building. These experts provided support to the organization of Regional Forum in 2021 in Uzbekistan and in 2022 in Tajikistan. The DRR experts reported to both UNDRR and CESDRR, and extended the influence of CESDRR at the regional level.



Representatives from Central Asian countries and development partners at the Regional Forum in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in November 2021

- Regional Forum** - The Regional Forum Meeting of Heads of Emergency Authorities of Central Asian Countries (referred to as 'Regional Forum') is a fundamental space for the exchange of information and development of political commitment in the area of risk management. UNDRR provides guidance and technical recommendations for the structure of the main documents of the Regional Forum, and has advised on the scope, regional linkages, and definition of cross border threats for the preparatory and outcome documents of the event. UNDRR also supports CESDRR in its role as Secretariat of the Regional ForumCESDRR, with guidance, consultation and financial support from UNDRR, developed the concept and agenda of the Regional Forums in 2020, 2021, and 2022. In performing this role, CESDRR conducted preliminary consultations with NDMAs, regional and country offices of UN agencies, as well as international organizations providing technical assistance in the sphere of DRR. The Regional Forum has provided a space for developing and strengthening networks for DRR, thereby reinforcing the concrete achievements to arise from the platform.

- UN System Coordination** - The CAI is systematically integrated within the work plans and country programs of the UN in the five countries of Central Asia, ensuring the coordination of the UN system in the region. The objectives are included in relevant sections of the 2021-2025 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, and in the work plan of the ongoing United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. UNDRR activities in the UN country programs are also reported in the UN INFO system, which is a system-wide digital platform that draws on key datasets on the work of the UN development system. The UNDRR staff in the countries are integrated in the UN Resident Coordinators' Offices and assist in the exchange of information on activities in disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness by UN agencies, as well as by international and donor organizations. UNDRR is also a member of relevant Result Groups in the programs of assistance and cooperation frameworks. The design of the CAI project ensures regional coordination across UN system entities, as well between national and sub-regional institutions. In the course of CAI, UNDRR collaborated with UNDP, WHO, UNECE, UNESCO, and other UN agencies in the country. UNDRR also contributed to the Capacity Assessment for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) in Kyrgyzstan, alongside a group of other UN agencies in the country.



Prime Minister of Tajikistan, H.E. Mr. Kokhir Rasulzoda, and UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Sezin Sinanoglu, signing the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in the presence of Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ms. Amina Mohamed, on 7 June 2022 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. UNDRR is a signatory to the Cooperation Framework



CAI meeting organized by CESDRR in February 2023

- **EU Coordination** – The CAI also strengthened relations between beneficiary countries, EU Delegations and UN partners. All meetings organized during the CAI systematically involved relevant representatives from the above-mentioned organizations, with the aim to take stock of efforts and progress, and to ensure coherent actions. Furthermore, specific efforts were undertaken to advocate and raise awareness on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaption amongst the general population at community-level and in schools. These efforts culminated with the special event held in Brussels on 28 November 2022, which was attended by the EU Special Representative for Central Asia, Ms. Terhi Hakala, representatives from DG-ECHO and DG-INTPA, as well as from beneficiary countries. At a technical level, UNDRR and the World Bank organized regular steering committees for presenting progress on the Initiative to the European Union and for jointly agreeing priority actions.

Key achievements

- **Strategy for Development of Cooperation of Countries of Central Asia in Disaster Risk Reduction for 2022 - 2030** - The first-ever regional strategy for disaster risk reduction in Central Asia was adopted by national government delegations of four countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) at the Meeting of the Heads of Emergency Authorities in Central Asia in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in November 2021. The document was communicated to the government of Turkmenistan as well. UNDRR provided guidance, consultation, and financial support for collecting and analyzing baseline information for developing the draft strategy and the draft of regional profile of risk. In a series of interim expert meetings, CESDRR facilitated the finalization of the documents for inclusion in the agenda of the Regional Forum in 2021. The Regional Strategy, a major step forward in deepening regional collaboration, aims to increase the efficiency of cooperation between Central Asian countries in disaster risk reduction; to enhance their interaction in emergency situations to prevent human, economic and environmental losses; and to create conditions for the sustainable development of countries in the region. The Regional Forum subsequently also endorsed a Roadmap for implementation of the Strategy in 2022 and 2023 to ensure effective and concrete action. The Roadmap was subsequently revised by the participating countries to account for the growing effects of climate change, and the revised Roadmap was endorsed by the governments at the Regional Forum in 2022.
- **Regional Risk Profile** - The Regional Risk Profile was developed by CESDRR and adopted by four countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) at the Regional Forum in 2021 and communicated to the Government of Turkmenistan. It provided the basis for a common understanding of disaster risks in the region, which was recognised as indispensable for the development and adoption of the Regional Strategy. Looking forward, the Regional Risk Profile will be periodically updated by technical personnel at national level, drawing from and contributing to region-wide disaster loss datasets.

- **Regional database on disaster losses** - UNDRR has supported CESDRR to develop the technical capacity to act as a host for regional level data on disaster loss. Under the CAI, CESDRR reached an agreement to collaborate with UNDRR's technical partners, the CIMA Research Foundation and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), on establishing a regional database on losses caused by disasters. Consultative meetings between CESDRR, CIMA and ADPC focused on the conceptual aspects, technical requirements, and the engagement of contributors to the regional database. As a result of this activity, CESDRR is fully equipped with both the human and material capacity to host regional disaster loss data at such a time as is appropriate.

- **Regional Forums** - The successful functioning of the Regional Forums has played an important role in enhancing regional coordination:

- In 2020, the Regional Forum was hosted by Kyrgyzstan. The Forum included high-level meetings of heads of NDMAs and a presentation of the first drafts of the Regional Strategy for DRR and Regional risk profile. Further, analysis and recommendations on the regional bilateral and multilateral coordination and collaboration mechanisms for disaster risk reduction was presented, and technical consultative meetings and training for the Sendai Technical Focal Points was provided.
- In 2021, the Regional Forum was hosted by Uzbekistan. Participants included high-level national delegations from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, senior representatives of donor agencies and international technical assistance organizations; and representatives of government ministries and the United Nations. At this meeting, the Regional Strategy 2022-2030 and Roadmap 2022-2023 were formally adopted.
- In 2022, the Regional Forum was hosted by Tajikistan. Participants included the heads of three NDMAs (Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) in the region, a delegation from Turkmenistan, as well as representatives from UNDRR, the EU, the World Bank and ADB. At the Forum, findings of the new regional risk assessment for Central Asia and selected country reports were presented. Further, delegates reviewed progress in implementation of the Roadmap 2022-2023, as well as considering practical solutions in the areas of cross-boundary cooperation and disaster risk financing. The protocol of the Regional Forum of 2022 was signed by the heads of three NDMAs (Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan), and later by Kyrgyzstan as well.

Representatives from Central Asian countries and development partners at Regional Forum Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan, 2022



- **European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR)** - Representatives from all five Central Asian countries, as well as CESDRR, were invited to attend in person the EFDRR, which took place in Matosinhos, Portugal, in November 2021. High-level government delegations from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, as well as the head of CESDRR and the head of the secretariat of National Platform for DRR of Kyrgyzstan, participated at the EFDRR in person, whilst representatives from Turkmenistan participated at a technical level online. Participation in EFDRR provided Central Asia states an opportunity to engage in international initiatives and activities to withstand the impact of climate change, and to collaborate on reducing existing and emerging risks. The senior representatives of the national delegations took part in the Ministerial Roundtable meeting and endorsed the EFDRR Roadmap 2021-2030. Central Asian representatives also contributed to, and made statements at, sessions on financing long-term resilience, local level resilience building, and disaster risk governance. They signed the Prevention Pledge, making disaster prevention and resilience a priority for accelerating the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.⁹

High-Level representatives from across Europe and Central Asia gathered at the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction 2021 in Matosinhos, Portugal



- **Global Platform** - The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction took place in Bali, Indonesia in May 2022, focused on the theme "From Risk to Resilience: Towards Sustainable Development for All in a COVID-19 Transformed World". It was organized and convened by UNDRR, and hosted by the Government of Indonesia. The Global Platform provided a unique opportunity to showcase the importance of international solidarity and cooperation, as well as to discuss ways to tackle underlying risk drivers at both the local and global level, strengthen disaster risk governance, and recommit with urgency to accelerate progress towards the reduction of disaster risk and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Central Asia region was well-represented at the forum: heads and senior staff of the NDMAs of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were present, as well as Sendai National Focal Points, officials from CESDRR, and representatives of both central and municipal governments in the region. The heads of NDMAs from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan attended the Ministerial Roundtable.

⁹ For more information and to read the Prevention Pledge, see: <https://www.preventionweb.net/publication/european-forum-disaster-risk-reduction-prevention-pledge>

Component 2: Increased commitments to build local level resilience

Output 2. Increased commitments to build local-level resilience

Activity 2-1: Support 5 major cities in implementing the disaster resilience scorecard that identifies the gaps and priority areas for investment including detailed sectoral assessments.

Impact

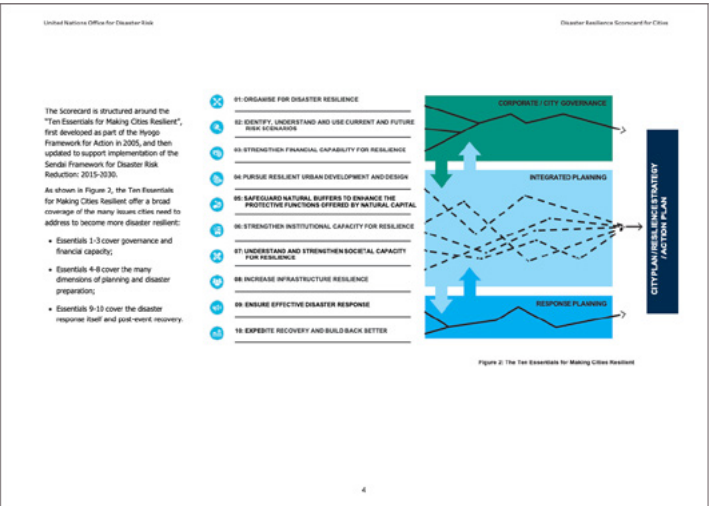
The CAI has provided resilience assessments of existing capacities in risk management to the capital cities of four partner countries, and facilitated new municipal governance structures and strategic planning where appropriate. Uzbekistan and the city of Tashkent remained less successful in terms of turning local level resilience efforts into concrete actions.



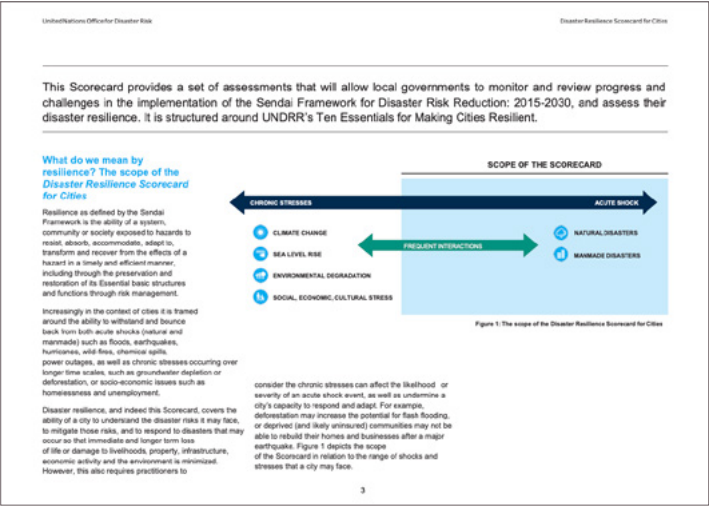
The CAI final meeting organized by CESDRR in February 2023

Key activities

- **Governance Arrangements** - UNDRR worked directly with the city administration of Ashgabat (Turkmenistan), Astana (Kazakhstan), Bishkek (Kyrgyz Republic), and Dushanbe (Tajikistan), to develop commitments and capacities in local level resilience. The municipal authorities assigned focal points and support staff to coordinate the collaboration. This work led to the establishment of Technical Working Groups representing departments and municipal services, jointly selected in accordance with the assessment methodology. Altogether, workshops and consultative meetings at the municipal level engaged over 150 members of Technical Working Groups and representatives of relevant ministries and agencies. The existence of the Technical Working Groups ensured the mobilisation of local expertise and ownership of the project by the city involved.



Examples of MCR2030 Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities



Representatives of Central Asian cities on the MCR2030 peer learning visit to Greater Manchester, an MCR2030 Resilience Hub, in December 2022



Key achievements

- Astana** - The capital city of Kazakhstan engaged in the development of resilience strategy, and appointed the Center of Urbanism as the focal point for the coordination of cooperation with UNDRR. The administration of the city established a Technical Working Group consisting of over 30 representatives of the municipal structures and national ministries to support implementation. To support this process and ensure that municipal planning was risk-informed, UNDRR organized and facilitated three assessments: the Preliminary Disaster Resilience Scorecard and Public Health Systems Disaster Resilience Scorecard assessments in November 2021, and the Detailed Disaster Resilience Scorecard Assessment in April 2022. Astana (then – Nur-Sultan) joined MCR2030 in 2021. Further, officials from Astana took part in the first MCR2030 peer learning exchange, organised in 2022 with the city of Greater Manchester, a Resilience Hub in the MCR2030 network. The exchange focused on developing understanding on risk assessment, early warning and governance.

Detailed Disaster Resilience Scorecard Assessment held in Astana, Kazakhstan, in April 2022



- Scorecards** - UNDRR hosted a series of workshops on resilience assessments using tools specifically developed by UNDRR, in partnership with specialized UN agencies. Disaster Resilience assessments were run in Ashgabat, Astana, Bishkek and Dushanbe; Public Health Systems Disaster Resilience assessments, contributing to COVID-19 recovery, were run in Astana, Bishkek and Dushanbe. These instruments form the core of the resilience assessment process, and were translated into the Russian language. UN agencies, including WHO, UNECE, UNDP, as well as OSCE and other international organizations, were engaged in the assessment process. UN Resident Coordinators also received a briefing from UNDRR on the progress. Where appropriate, UNDRR has supported municipalities to trigger strategic planning, building from the results of the assessments.
- Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR 2030)** - MCR2030 is a global initiative that seeks to support understanding and strategic planning for risk reduction at the municipal level. As part of the CAI, Astana, Bishkek and Dushanbe have joined the MCR2030 initiative, linking up with cities worldwide to share expertise and develop capacity for risk reduction. In addition, UNDRR has hosted two regional workshops to support the implementation of MCR2030 and engagement of secondary cities from across the region: first in collaboration with the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH) in June 2022 and second with UNDP in December 2022. Both workshops took place in Almaty, bringing together representatives from more than 10 cities across Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.. The AKAH stated that the methodology will be applied in a number of cities that are supported by the AKAH Urban Resilience program in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, while UNDRR and UNDP aim to continue collaborating with secondary cities in the region in support to urban resilience and MCR2030.



- **Bishkek** - Kyrgyzstan's capital city established a Technical Working Group involving over 40 representatives of the local and national government, as well as risk analysis institutions. The Technical Working Group was responsible for undertaking disaster resilience assessments and developing a Local Strategy and Action Plan for Disaster Resilience. With the support of UNDRR, Bishkek conducted the Public Health Systems Disaster Resilience Scorecard assessment in July 2021, the Preliminary Disaster Resilience Scorecard assessment in September 2021 and the Detailed Disaster Resilience Scorecard Assessment in May 2022. This latter developed over 200 concrete recommendations covering various aspects to enhance disaster resilience of Bishkek. The Ministry of Emergency Situations has notified UNDRR that it considers the work in Bishkek as a pilot, and intends to scale up MCR2030 engagement and the use of the disaster resilience scorecard methodology in other cities across the country. The city is currently developing a Local Strategy and Action Plan for Disaster Resilience, which will be based on a multi-hazard approach, including planning for biological hazards. Bishkek joined MCR2030 in 2021.

Three-day workshop discussing the 117 indicators of the Detailed Disaster Resilience Scorecard Assessment in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in May 2022



Handing of the MCR2030 Certificate of Commitment to Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience to the City of Dushanbe in August 2021



- **Dushanbe** - The Executive Body of State Power in the City of Dushanbe, supported by UNDRR, established a Technical Working Group to develop the City Strategy and Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction for Dushanbe. The Technical Working Group is composed of over 40 representatives from local and national governments, as well as risk analysis institutions. In 2022 the City of Dushanbe, in collaboration with UNDRR, conducted two self-assessment workshops on the city's resilience to disasters, focusing first on the Preliminary Disaster Resilience scorecard and then on the Public Health System Resilience scorecard. Dushanbe joined MCR2030 in 2021. Further, officials from Dushanbe took part in the first MCR2030 peer learning exchange, organised in 2022 with the city of Greater Manchester, a Resilience Hub in the MCR2030 network. The exchange focused on developing understanding on risk assessment, early warning and governance.
- **Tashkent** - Despite challenges that prevented the conduction of specific resilience assessments and recommendations, a detailed context analysis of the current state of resilience to disasters was produced for Tashkent, and an introductory meeting was conducted with the administration of the city. The Ministry of Emergency Situations of Uzbekistan expressed interest in piloting the Cultural Heritage Addendum of the Disaster Resilience Scorecard in Bukhara, the UNESCO World Heritage site in Uzbekistan. Cultural Heritage was highlighted as one of the priorities of Uzbekistan during the bilateral meeting with UNDRR at the Regional Forum in November 2021.
- **Ashgabat** - UNDRR conducted an online introductory workshop on the Preliminary Disaster Resilience Scorecard in 2021. Building from this information, a written assessment has been conducted by the City Administration under the coordination of the Civil Defense and Rescue Operations Department of the Ministry of Defense.

- Activity 2-2: Implement small scale structural mitigation activities in target communities
- Activity 2-3: Increase communities’ knowledge and skills to deal with disaster and climate risks

Impact

- **The CAI has directly developed the disaster risk reduction knowledge and skills of countries across Central Asia, and has implemented small-scale mitigation projects in 65 communities in the region.**

Key activities

- **Small-scale mitigation projects** - Small-scale structural mitigation projects were developed by community members under the coordination of IFRC. Typical activities included reinforcing river embankments, building mud stream protection walls, cleaning ditches and canals, planting trees for slope stabilization, and prevention measures for landslides and floods. To support sustainable implementation of mitigation activities, an agreement was signed between National Red Crescent Societies, working as an implementing partner with UNDRR, and selected communities most at risk. These activities were complemented by various preparatory actions, such as formation and training of the Local Disaster Management Committees, and the performance of a Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment together with community members.
- **School-based awareness-raising activities** - National Red Crescent Societies developed and implemented the community-based DRR training across the region. Based on the results and findings of the VCA in each locality, the Red Crescent branches coordinated action plans with local departments of education, aiming to ensure disaster risk knowledge components were included in the school program for teachers and students. Awareness-raising activities included printing and distribution of information materials, awareness-raising campaigns, debates on DRR topics, lectures, tests and First Aid skills demonstrations, all targeted at schoolchildren and teachers. As a result of these activities, the schoolchildren and teachers disseminated new knowledge and skills at home and in their respective communities.
- **Community Engagement** - The consistent engagement of community members was ensured through the creation of Local Disaster Management Committees. These entities were provided with Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment trainings and equipment. As such, the CAI empowered community members across Central Asia to identify risks and design risk reduction activities appropriate to the local context, as well as to mobilize resources for implementation in partnership with relevant authorities, civil society leaders and religious groups as well as the private sector.
- **Mitigation Projects** - Small-scale structural mitigation projects (SSMPs) were implemented, based on VCA results from each community. Completed mitigation projects, approved by Red Crescent officers and local specialists’ quality checks, are handed over to the communities to manage and sustain. The best practices and lessons learned were compiled and presented at a Lessons Learnt Workshop in July 2022. The activities promote a culture of disaster resilience and assist local communities to mobilize their own resources to respond to their needs.

Key achievements

Overview - The reach of this element of the CAI exceeded expectations. As a result of implementation of the project 65 communities were covered against 50 planned, with 53,172 direct beneficiaries against 44,849 planned, and 142,992 indirect beneficiaries against 149,767 planned. The governance structures and local capacity catalyzed by school-based awareness-raising and community engagement, as well as the direct results of the mitigation projects, represent an important success for the CAI.



Awareness raising around the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction in Astana, Kazakhstan in 2022

Kazakhstan

The Kazakhstan National Society of the Red Crescent created Local Disaster Management Committees in ten villages in East Kazakhstan province, with 100 people in total involved. These people were then trained in community-based DRR and Vulnerability Capacity Assessment. The results of this assessment process led to six mitigation projects, implemented in four communities: Zubovsk, Turgusun, Predgornoe and Veselovka. Mitigation projects included work to deepen rivers and canals, to dig new channels to help manage meltwater flow and to repair damage to a small dam. Furthermore, schools in ten target settlements were used as hubs to develop community capacity for risk reduction through the training of teachers and studentsin total, 50 teachers and 715 students were trained.



Visiting community-led mitigation project site to manage meltwater flow in Kazakhstan in 2022



Kyrgyzstan

The Kyrgyzstan National Society of the Red Crescent worked with 18 communities in three provinces across the timeline of the project, developing Local Disaster Management Committees which 281 people were involved in. These people were then trained in community-based DRR and Vulnerability Capacity Assessment, which was used to ensure that mitigation projects responded to local context and demand. Small-scale mitigation projects were conducted in all 18 communities, with activities such as the cleaning of channels and canals to better control surface runoff, the construction of safe crossings across canals, the creation of a ditch for protection from mudflows, and bank consolidation. Furthermore, 234 teachers and headteachers and 10,043 students in the 18 target villages were trained in disaster risk reduction and preparedness. Many of the students were taught by teachers who had been capacitated on disaster risk reduction education during the CAI project.



Monitoring new cross-over bridge in Tagtabazar, Mary Region, Turkmenistan

below: Installation of a deep water pump in the village of Gurje, Turkmenistan



Turkmenistan

The Turkmenistan National Society of the Red Crescent worked with nine communities to enhance disaster preparedness. Each community that engaged in the project created a Local Disaster Management Committee, which led to 90 people becoming directly involved in DRR at the local level. Dedicated two-day training sessions were held with community members to familiarise them with the principles and applications of Vulnerability Capacity Assessments. Vulnerability Capacity Assessments were then conducted in all nine target communities, and small-scale mitigation projects were implemented in the country. These included the installation of pumping capacity into a well and the illumination of a pedestrian crossing. Furthermore, lectures on disaster risk reduction and preparedness were held in all targeted communities.

Tajikistan

The Tajikistan National Society of the Red Crescent worked with ten communities to enhance disaster preparedness. Each community that engaged in the project created a Local Disaster Management Committee, which led to 200 people becoming directly involved in DRR at the local level. Training in community-based DRR and Vulnerability Capacity Assessment led to the identification of eight small-scale mitigation projects. These projects included riverbank reinforcement, the construction of pedestrian bridges and the cleaning of drainage channels. Furthermore, open lessons on DRR were held in schools in all ten of the target communities, supported by the selection of one class in each of the ten schools to be trained monthly in topics related to DRR.



Community-level DRR planning in Tajikistan

below: Drawing competition to raise awareness around the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, Dushanbe, Tajikistan, October 2022



Uzbekistan

The Uzbekistan National Society of the Red Crescent, with support of the Ministry of Emergency Situations, facilitated the establishment of Local Disaster Management Committees and provided them with basic response equipment. The National Red Crescent Society also conducted DRR training Local Disaster Management Committee members and supported the undertaking of Vulnerability Capacity Assessment and the subsequent development of risk maps and factsheets for all target communities. Local Disaster Management Committee members shared the information on disaster preparedness among members of their communities. Small-scale mitigation projects were advanced in 18 communities, ranging from the installation of drainage trays to the cleaning of local waterways. Furthermore, in targeted communities, a demonstration of first aid skills, drawing and essay contests for students were held in schools.

Training local disaster management committee members in Uzbekistan, February 2021



Communication and Visibility

Communication is an integral part of all activities under this Action, especially in advocacy and outreach activities promoting risk reduction and resilience building at the local level in Result 1 and in sharing of experiences and learning among participating cities in Result 2 and 4. The primary target groups were local authorities and relevant stakeholders including national governments, academic institutions, CSOs, community representatives as well as local political leaders.

Communication messages ranged from the general concepts of DRR including the social and economic benefits of investing in DRR, the importance of understanding risks, and the benefits of identifying appropriate risk reduction actions in line with the Sendai Framework, to promoting knowledge, action for improved resilience, and available toolkits (e.g. the Ten Essentials, Scorecard and the planning process).

Several workshops, events, and creativity contests were organized, including in alignment with the themes of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2020, 2021, and 2022, to build awareness of disaster prevention and resilience amongst children, youth, and local communities across the region. Videos, news articles and billboards have also delivered key DRR-messages to the wider public across the countries in the region. In 2020, the IDDRR promoted Target E of the Sendai Framework: "Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020". In 2021, it promoted Target F of the Sendai Framework: "Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of the present Framework by 2030". And in 2022, it promoted target G: "Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030".

EU delegates were invited to attend the workshops held under this Action. The support by the European Commission and EU logo were cited in all publications and mentioned at all related events. The publicity was promoted through various channels including:



Target E
Increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies



Target F
Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries



Target G
Increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems

Left: Billboard raising awareness on the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in October 2022

Right: Raising awareness on the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction in Turkmenistan in October 2022



A list of communication methods were made use of under the CAI:



- **Press releases** and **news articles** on the websites of UNDRR (www.undrr.org), MCR2030 (mcr2030.undrr.org), CESDRR (cesdrr.org), and the UN websites for each Central Asian country. Key speakers and EU representatives were invited to be quoted in each article.



- UNDRR ROECA (@UNDRR_ECA) and HQ (@UNDRR) **Twitter accounts**, with links to the Europe Aid account, and other relevant partners to maximize visibility.



- **Video clips** promoting resilience building activities under the project on UNDRR ROECA's Twitter account.



- **Social cards** from the activities of the project posted on UNDRR ROECA's Twitter account, as well as websites of NDMA's.

A list of advocacy and outreach events and communication and visibility materials are available in Annexes 1 and 3.

Left: Training youth on fire safety and emergency procedures as part of activities to mark the International Disaster Risk Reduction Day and Rescuer's Day in Astana, Kazakhstan, in September 2022

Right: Cartoon submitted as part of drawing competition to mark the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction



- Visibility on **local news channels and websites**.



- UNDRR's Regional Office for Europe & Central Asia's **monthly newsletters**, which are circulated to over **3,500 subscribers**, and Twitter account (@UNDRR_ECA).



- **The Prevention Saves Lives Campaign** covering Europe and Central Asia drew visibility to work across the region.



- **Workshop and event materials** (background, banners, roll-ups, PowerPoint Presentations, etc.).



- **Calendars** promoting disaster resilience and the results of the Central Asia Initiative.

Part 3: A Way Forward



The years from 2019 - 2022 have been a time of extraordinary momentum for disaster and climate risk reduction in Central Asia. The Central Asia Initiative (CAI) has been at the heart of a growing commitment, at both the regional and national level, to a culture of disaster risk management and prevention rather than response. As such, the Results Oriented Monitoring report recognised the CAI as “well-designed and effectively implemented, with timely delivery of the planned outputs”. Looking forward, it is crucial to capitalise upon the bilateral relations, networks and capacities generated as part of the CAI to fulfil the promise of prospective disaster risk management across the Central Asia region and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the targets of the Sendai Framework.

The progress experienced as part of the CAI has placed the countries of Central Asia in a strong position to face the burgeoning risks of the 21st century. The CAI has catalyzed the unprecedented growth of networks of disaster risk practitioners at the local, national and regional level. The platforms and strategies that have emerged as part of this process represent a new departure for the region, and they provide a framework for a coordinated push for enhanced resilience by all stakeholders. As the ROM report notes, the implementation of the CAI has meant that national “ownership and commitment are ensured”. **From high-level ministerial dialogues to exchanges between academic and technical experts to associations of stakeholders at the local level, the CAI has ensured the basis for an organic and sustainable culture of disaster risk reduction in the coming years.**

Alongside these new networks, the CAI has enhanced capacities for disaster risk reduction across the region. Disaster loss reporting has advanced substantially since 2019, and technical capacity in each of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan has been enhanced through dedicated training workshops and adapted systems. Targeted action at the municipal level has developed recommendations for risk reduction which is feeding through into strategic documents. Meanwhile, CESDRR in Almaty has emerged as a regional hub of expertise and coordination in risk reduction that will sustain and accelerate the advancement of regional capacity in risk management, in partnership with national governments. It is critical to leverage these capacity gains in the region to catalyze further improvements in implementation.

In this context, there is an urgent need for continuing support in Central Asia so that commitment to and capacity for disaster risk management at the national level is sustained and further scaled up.

Capitalising on the networks and capacities that were created during the CAI project represents the single most impactful opportunity for enhancing resilience in the region. Specifically, the continued development of regulation and legislation, and enhancement of the capacity of national level coordination bodies, would further embed the successes of the project in the coming years. The implementation of national strategies is a key concern, as there is an urgent need to develop dedicated budgets, support risk financing mechanisms and detailed action plans. Further, the appropriate tracking of all risk reduction investments at the level of national governments is fundamental to the ability to monitor DRR investments and successes. CAI has ensured that concerns of disaster risk reduction are now prioritised at the national level: this success must be capitalised on in the coming years or it will swiftly erode due to competing priorities and turn-over of decision makers.

The second key challenge for 2023 and the coming years is to realise the potential of the substantial gains made through the CAI at the regional and local level of activity.

The first priority must be the coordinated implementation and monitoring of the Regional Strategy for DRR, supported by adequate financing and with support to the CESDRR. Identification and realisation of partnerships for cross-boundary DRR in Central Asia, including for standardised methodologies of risk assessment, should be a major area of focus. At the municipal level, there is an urgent need to work on the implementation of resilience priorities and plans in Astana, Bishkek and Dushanbe, while continuing to support cities such as Tashkent and Ashgabat, as well as secondary cities in the region, pushing to implement financed activities to realise resilience gains. Finally, it is crucial to maintain momentum in the area of risk knowledge by deepening the partnership with CESDRR and renewing the commitment to high quality risk data in the region, building

from the successes of national disaster loss databases and the INFORM risk index. With appropriate support in these areas, Central Asia is well-placed to continue to improve the implementation of sophisticated risk management activities at the regional and municipal scale.

The total impact of the Central Asia Initiative has been a qualitative and quantitative shift in the framing of disaster and climate risk management in the region. CAI has had an unprecedented impact on networks and capacities in the region. As Mr. Dzhergalbek Ukashev, Director of CESDRR, noted in his contribution to the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework, “unique results have been achieved” in Central Asia in the period of the CAI. If the trajectory of growth that characterised the CAI project were to be continued beyond the project’s time horizon, the Central Asia region could soon offer examples of global best practice in risk-informed development at all scales.



Resilient Central Asia



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