RESILIENCE STRENGTHENING IN ALBANIA

(RESEAL PROJECT)

PROGRESS REPORT #2

JULY – DECEMBER 2020

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

RESEAL project officially started its implementation in July 2020, following the bilateral signing of the project document by the Ministry of Defense and UNDP on 16 July 2020.

The RESEAL project has two major interlinked pillars: 1) strengthening the DRM strategic and operational framework and capacities at central level, and 2) support the development of local (municipal) DRR framework and local response capacities in harmonization with the national DRR system and legal framework in place.

In anticipation of the RESEAL project, with the aim of laying the grounds and facilitating the project start up, UNDP launched in February 2020 two pilot interventions: a central level pilot on *DRM System Capacity Development in Albania*, and a local level pilot on: *Municipal DRR Framework in Lezha Municipality*.

By end 2020, the following results have been achieved:

At central level:

- ✓ Establishment of the inter-ministerial technical working group on DRR and capacity assessment process as per SENDAI requirements
- ✓ Finalization of the stakeholder analysis and engagement plan as per their role in the DRR process at different level developed
- ✓ Finalization of the Albania Capacity Assessment in Disaster Risk Management as per SENDAI requirements
- ✓ Exchanges in process for the establishment of multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms for disaster risk reduction, including National Platform for DRR, highlighting the relevance, added value and cost-benefit of a coordinated and consistent approach to DRR at the national level.
- ✓ Strategic documents and policies on DRR at different levels reviewed DRR Strategy Terms of Reference prepared
- ✓ Trainings and consultations on Capacity Assessment and SENDAI tools application in process

At local level:

Lezha pilot was able to support the development of three documents, namely the Lezha Municipality Disaster Risk Assessment, Local DRR Strategy and Local Civil Emergency Plan, as a fulfillment of municipality's main obligations regarding non-structural measures, stipulated in the law 45/2019.

The three documents are finalized and undergoing a final layout and design before being made available for public use.

I - BACKGROUND

According to the annual report of the World Risk of the United Nations University, which calculates the Risk Index of Disasters for 180 countries based on exposure, susceptibility, vulnerability and coping and adaptive capacities, Albania is consistently ranked first in Europe for the period 2011-2019, and occupies the 61st place in the world for 2019 (UNDRR, 2019). On the other hand, resilience has already become a guiding concept for policymaking to preserve and sustain development results, economic gains and protect human life and social values for the present generation and the future ones.

The concept of resilience has evolved over time and has different definitions, but one thing that is convergent in all cases is the ability of a country's authorities and socio-ecological systems to resist to and fast recover after a crisis (Davoudi, 2019). In this sense, the concept is comprehensive and multidimensional, including not only mere technical component, but also numerous systemic, social and ecological factors. Due to their importance and impact, resilience and disaster risk reduction have received significant global attention. This is seen in the priorities of the Sendai Framework, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and the New Urban Agenda (UN Habitat, 2016) as well as the Urban Agenda of the EU (Informal Meeting of EU Ministers Responsible for Urban Matter, 2016). These global strategic documents place an important emphasis on central and local authorities for developing effective systems, coordinating resources and integrating all social layers to cope and act before, during and after crisis occur.

For Albania, a major recent natural disaster is undoubtedly the earthquake of 26 November 2019, that hit the central country area with a 6.4 strength on the Richter scale at a depth of 10 km. As a result of the earthquake, a total of 222,778 people was affected, of whom 50,614 were directly and 172,164 were indirectly affected. The earthquake caused 51 fatalities, at least 913 people were injured, and first responders rescued 48 people from collapsed houses. Up to 17,000 people were displaced, due to the loss of their homes. The earthquake was the strongest to have hit Albania in app. 40 years. It caused extensive damage in 11 municipalities, including the 2 most populous, urbanized and developed municipalities (Tirana and Durres). The worst affected municipalities were: Shijak, Durrës, Krujë, Tirana, Kamëz, Kavajë, Kurbin and Lezhë.

In response to the post-earthquake situation UNDP Albania mobilized expertise to support the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) process and continued with developing specific streams of assistance aligned with the PDNA recommendations and the obligations of the Law 45/2019 related to restructure and strengthen the DRM system in Albania at all levels.

The latter entailed the formulation of a multi-partner format assistance to the country's DRR sector - the RESEAL programme - in partnership with the Albanian Ministry of Defense and the National Civil Protection Agency, which was jointly reviewed and officially signed in July 2020. The RESEAL programme has two major interlinked pillars: 1) strengthening the DRM strategic and operational framework and capacities at central level, and 2) support the development of local (municipal) DRR framework and local response capacities in harmonization with the national DRR system and legal framework in place.

II - RESEAL PROJECT

RESEAL project officially started its implementation in July 2020, following the bilateral signing of the project document by the Ministry of Defense and UNDP on 16 July 2020.

RESEAL project has been developed as a comprehensive response to the needs for strengthening the DRM systems at all levels in the country. As such, in its entirety, the project contains a multi-level set of priorities around three components: 1) strengthening the DRR framework and capacities at the central level, 2) building DRR local level knowledge, planning and organizational capacities for prevention and response to disasters, and 3) supporting critical needs for DRR infrastructure.

The project mirrors several recommendations provided in the recent PDNA, following the November 2019 earthquake, supports the implementation of the new legislation on Civil Protection sanctioned in the recent Law 45/2019, takes into consideration the present momentum where the main government institution responsible for DRR policy and coordination – the National Agency for Civil Protection- is under a full redesign and overhaul, being at present in a phase of staffing and internal organization, as well as proposes development of response measures and related capacity building, triggered by the outbreak of the global COVID-19 pandemic and its ongoing impact.

The project also takes into consideration the changing landscape of DRR assistance, where several international actors are coming into play (in the areas of short-term recovery as well as longer-term support of DRR institutions in terms of logistics, resources and capacities), triggered by the last disasters or speeding up their plans in view of the fragility of the DRR system in Albania.

RESEAL project proposes a comprehensive framework for addressing most of the identified needs and gaps of the country DRR system. In this sense, RESEAL can be considered a document providing the overall framework of the needed assistance in the DRR sector.

Practically, RESEAL has been divided in two Modules, taking into consideration the realistic resource mobilization limitations, prioritizing in the first Module the soft assistance related to the DRR framework and institutional coordination at all levels and leaving in a less probable second Module the hard assistance, covering tangible investment and equipment needs.

In view of the above, RESEAL project has identified, in agreement with the government counterparts, a major niche that encompasses the soft assistance for enabling cross institutional dialogue for DRR, integration of the DRR perspective into development, and the establishment of the DRR strategic, institutional and operational governance framework at both central and local levels, along with the necessity for capacity building for using these instruments. This is, however, still a wide area of action, and the project remains dynamically adaptable to the opportunities and limitations.

III – PILOT INTERVENTIONS PRECEDING RESEAL PROJECT

In anticipation of the RESEAL project, with the aim of laying the grounds and facilitating the project start up, UNDP launched in February 2020 two pilot interventions: a central level pilot to carry out an institutional DRR Capacity Assessment with the ultimate goal to establish a National Platform for DRR, and a local level pilot in the municipality of Lezha for developing the local DRR framework methodology and approach, replicable for rollout in other Albanian municipalities.

Central level pilot: DRM System Capacity Development in Albania, consists in conducting a comprehensive assessment of DRM capacities in Albania in line with the Sendai Framework for DRR and EU requirements, developing an Action Plan for DRM System Capacity Development and establish the National Platform for DRR. An assessment of strategic documents on DRR and Civil Emergency will produce the DRR Terms of Reference for the DRR Strategy. The pilot also includes initial support to the DRM capacity building in the country, focusing in the inter-institutional cooperation and stakeholder involvement

Local Level Pilot: Municipal DRR Framework in Lezha Municipality: in line with the requirements of law 45/2019, the pilot consists in engaging local stakeholders and developing through participation and specialized assistance 1) the municipal DRR structures, 2) the municipal risk assessment, 3) the local DRR Strategy, 4) the Local Civil Emergency Plan, and 5) a methodological guide for expanding local DRR assistance to other municipalities. The process relies on a participatory approach, stakeholders' consultations, the Sendai Framework priorities and usage of international best experiences applied in the country context.

1 – CENTRAL LEVEL PILOT: DRM System Capacity Development in Albania

1.1 - Rationale, Approach and Process

1.1.1 - Rationale

The development of effective and efficient Disaster Risk Management System in Albania requires commitment and engagement of the key stakeholders in the process of developing the capacities within the system. The process of capacity development takes into account participants' views on the objectives and how they are to be achieved. It is a question of both principles and practice. The principle is that people and organizations should be fully involved in issues concerning themselves. The effectiveness and sustainability of the process depend practically on the commitment of interested stakeholders. Thus, the participation of stakeholders is a central element in achieving the objectives of the capacity development process and is considered a key achievement establishment of the inter-ministerial working group on DRM.

Stakeholder Participation is considered in this initiative a process whereby stakeholders – those with rights (and therefore responsibilities) and/or interests – play an active role in decision-making and in the consequent activities which affect them.

Participation contributes to the chances of invested efforts to be effective and sustainable, because:

- It is more effective because, in drawing on a wide range of interested parties, the prospects for an appropriate design of capacity development strategy and commitment to achieving objectives is likely to be maximized.
- It is more sustainable because people are more likely to be committed to carrying on the activities suggested by the strategy, and more able to do so given that participation itself helps develop skills and confidence.

By enhancing stakeholder participation, the national ownership is strengthened, and the risk of failure is reduced. At the same time, needs to be highlighted the 'cost of participation' which creates additional inertia and requires time and extra efforts to achieve.

Stakeholder Analysis is a tool which has been applied in the process to identify the stakeholders, analyze their explicit and implicit interests and identify potential role and engagement in the DRM process. Stakeholder Analysis conducted aimed at:

- Identify and define the characteristics of key stakeholders;
- Assess how they might affect or be affected by the process and its outcomes;
- Understand the relations between stakeholders, including the assessment of real or potential conflicts of interest and expectation between stakeholders;
- Assess the capacity of different stakeholders to participate.

It is important to highlight that the *Stakeholder Analysis differs from Institutional Analysis*, which is concerned looking at the appropriateness and effectiveness of institutional arrangements and assessing its strengths, weaknesses and development needs of individual organizations.

1.1.2 - Approach

During the analysis of DRM in Albania, the *System Thinking Method* was used to understand the linkages and interconnections between the elements and functions of the DRM System, stakeholders and potential roles. The complex and multiple challenges we face today are multifaceted, complex, and interconnected. To understand them and address them effectively requires a holistic "systems" view. Many sustainability related issues climate change, desertification, disaster risk management, potable water shortage, biodiversity loss, economic and social instability, and more are the result of a non-systemic, fragmented, simplistic, and short-sighted trend worldwide that dominates in many instances. Recent decades, however, have seen a significant surge of interest in holistic ways of looking at reality with the associated development of multiple frameworks and tools which, all together, have been hailed as the emergence of a new paradigm. The combined result has been referred to as "systems thinking," "the system approach," or "the system view of the world."

Systems thinking is a broad term used to represent a set of methods and tools that focus on systems, rather than parts, as the context for defining and solving complex problems, and for fostering more effective learning and design. At its best, the practice of systems thinking helps us to stop operating from crisis to crisis and to think in a less fragmented, more integrated way.

System definition applies to two or more parts interacting to function as a whole within some boundary. The elements and processes of a system interact and affect one another, often in ways, we cannot see. Additionally, in systems, the relationship between the parts matters. If elements or parts of the system are added or taken away, the behavior of the system changes.

Systems Thinking is a way of thinking that:

- sees the whole
- looks for connections
- challenges mental models
- anticipates unintended consequences
- focuses on the structure, not blame

It is a process of collective inquiry which uncovers and helps people see:

- wholes rather than parts
- interrelationships rather than things
- interdependencies (circular causality) rather than linear cause and effect chains
- processes of change (patterns) rather than snapshots

Systems thinking is also a diagnostic tool. As in the medical field, effective treatment follows a thorough diagnosis. In this sense, systems thinking is a disciplined approach for examining problems more completely and accurately before acting. It allows asking better questions before jumping to conclusions.

Finally, it is a set of tools, that graphically depicts a system's structure and behavior which helps people communicate their understanding of a system and enables them to design high-leverage interventions for the problematic system behavior.

The *System Map*, one of the main tools of the System Thinking Method was used to present the analysis and facilitate the discussions on the DRM topic and issues. There are many types of systems mapping. Each has a purpose of making the system visible and more understandable. When the system is complex, it is difficult to see the system without understanding and incorporating the perspectives from all the subsystems and their interactions

A type of systems map, a *Causal Loop Diagram, CLD*, aids visualizing how different variables in a system are interrelated. The diagram consists of a set of nodes and lines. Nodes represent the variables and lines are the links that represent a connection or a relation between the two variables and this is applied in our assessment.

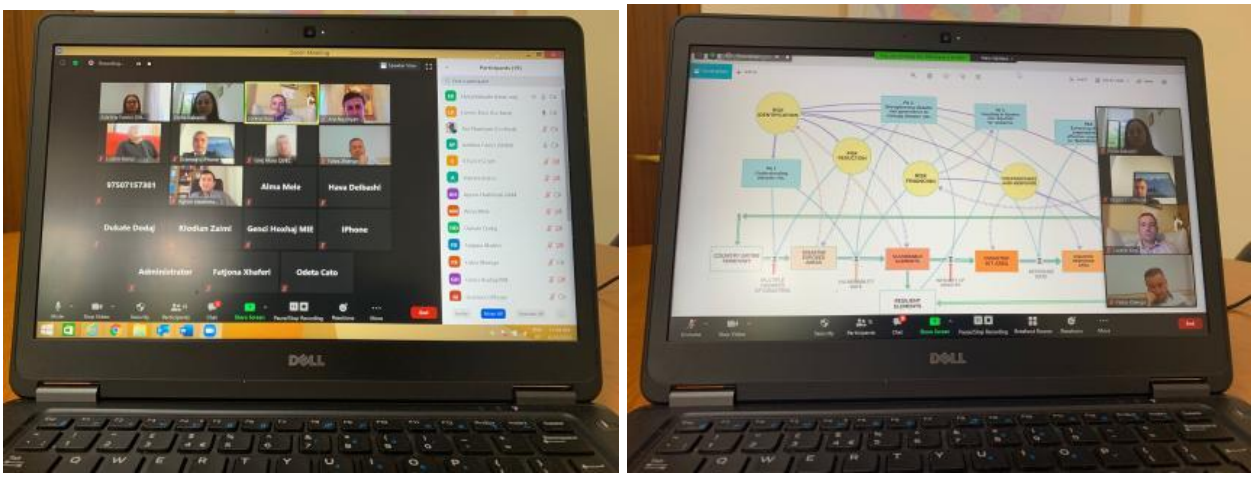
1.1.3 - Process

The initial plan for conducting the Stakeholder Analysis included one to two visits of the International Consultancy to Albania, conducting a series of workshops and holding individual meetings and interviews with the key stakeholder groups.

However, the rapid spread of COVID-19 the Project Team revisited the initial plan reflecting existing limitations and challenges of lockdowns and travel restrictions. Thus, all the assessment tools and questionnaires were transformed into online modes and the main communication process was organizing online conference calls. Given the conditions in the country and working modalities of the key stakeholders, it was possible to organize an online stakeholder workshop, during which several critical elements of the future DRM System in Albania were discussed.

During the process of online consultations, a set of questionnaires and reporting forms were developed. Besides, the online survey was prepared and shared with key stakeholders during the workshop. The link to the online survey is https://forms.gle/EpWxtyBqBNcjfxMK7.

The inter-ministerial working group set up with UNDP support under the guidance and leadership of the National Civil Protection Agency was an important milestone. A meeting to discuss knowledge products and drafts followed by online discussions was organized in 18 June 2020.



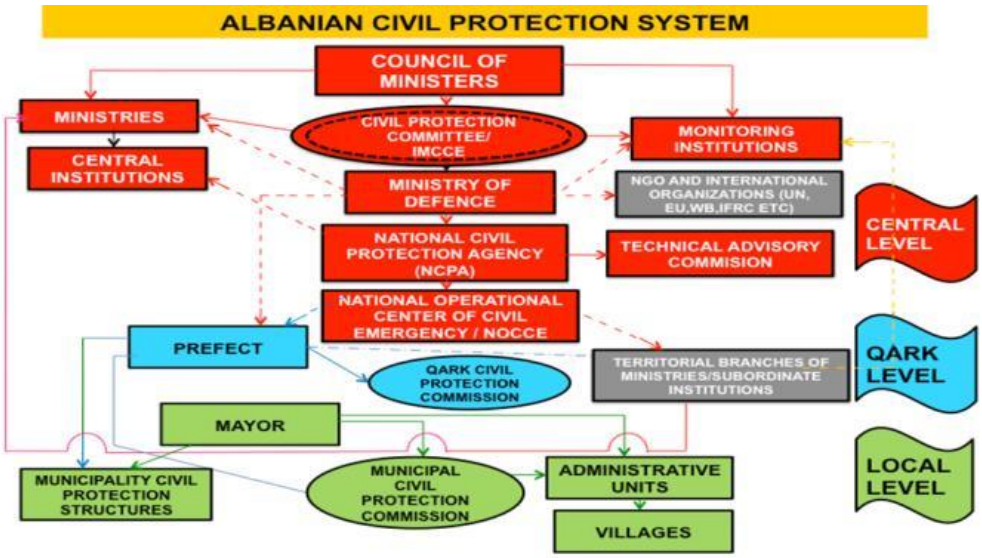
Inter-ministerial working group meeting 18 June 2020

1.2 - DRM System in Albania. Linkage with UN SDGs and Sendai Framework for DRR

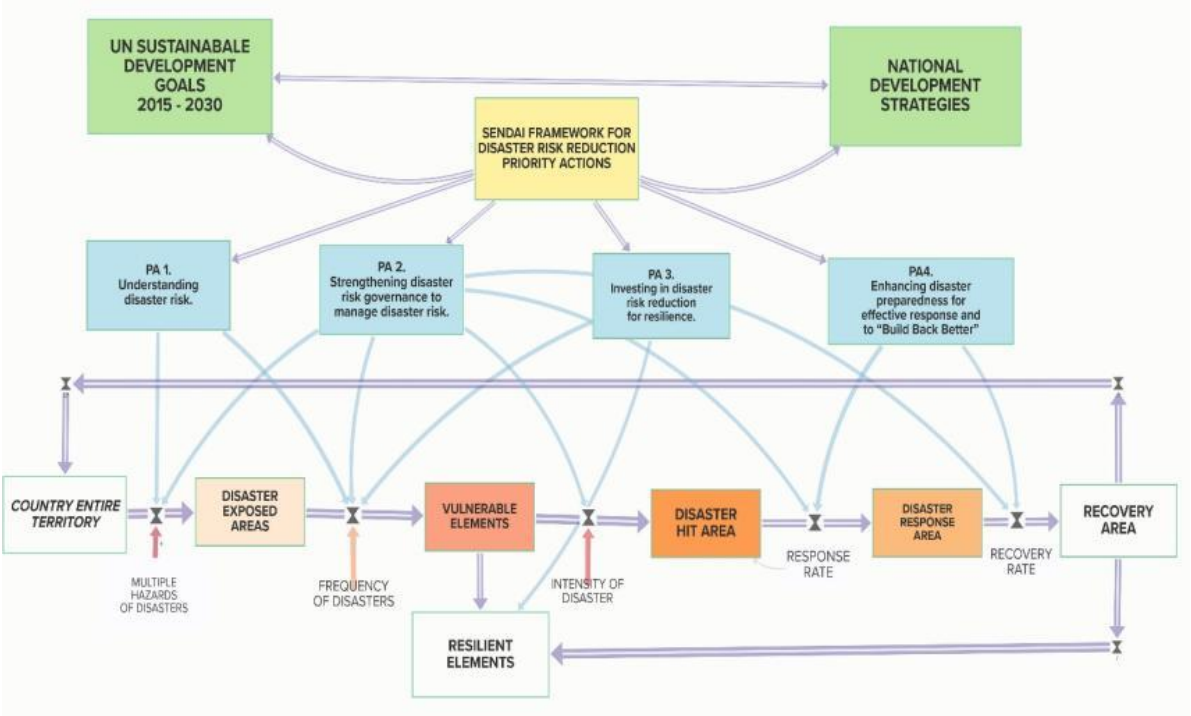
In developing the suggestion for visualization of the DRM System in Albania, the following key documents were taken into account:

1. The Law No. 45/2019 on Civil Protection adopted by the Assembly of the Republic of Albania;
2. UN Sustainable Development Goals: "Transforming Our World - the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development";

3. UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2015 – 2030: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2157sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf .



The DRM-Albania System targets and objectives were aligned with the national strategies such as National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI) and legislation and with the major international



strategies for sustainable development and disaster risk management. The vision for DRM System in

Albania was presented and discussed during the Stakeholder Online workshop on June 18, 2020. Despite the challenges of lockdown and COVID-19 pandemic-imposed restrictions, several personal meetings and consultations were conducted with the key staff of the Agency of Civil Protection, Red Cross, Fire Protection and Association of Municipalities.

The chart above presents the DRM System Map for Albania vision and objectives for the system and connections to the national development goals and international strategies.

The System Map presents the vision for DRM, which has the main purpose to make the country more resilient and safer in the situation of multiple disaster risks exposure.

Disaster exposed areas are the places in the country, where multiple hazards of disasters exist. However, what makes them more vulnerable are the elements of human economic or social life which are prone to the effect of potential disasters. As such, the first task for the DRM system in Albania is *a*) to understand potential hazards for disasters in any given area and b) to understand the vulnerability of elements in a given area to be able c) to minimize to exclude the potential negative effect of hazards.

However, it is not always possible to exclude completely the risks of disasters, and thus, the country must be prepared for potential shocks and effects for negative developments, including natural, man-made disasters, epidemics (like COVID-19) and other potential threats. In the system map, the areas which suffer from disasters are shown as "disaster-hit area". The objective of a DRM system is to be prepared for d) immediate response actions to minimize the direct impact of the disasters and e) to be prepared for urgent recovery actions to restore the minimum conditions for living and functioning. Another important function of the DRM system is f) to prepare and implement the effective strategy for disaster recovery to completely restore the impacted areas, ensuring a higher level of risk protection and possibilities for sustainable development.

All these objectives of DRM system are summarized in the "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction"[1] adopted by the UN in 2015. The Sendai Framework stresses that " … Taking into account the experience gained through the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action... there is a need for focused action within and across sectors by States at local, national, regional and global levels in the following four priority areas:

Priority 1: Understanding disaster risk.

Priority 2: Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk.

Priority 3: Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience.

Priority 4: Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

All these priority actions are incorporated in the system map as guiding elements for the future disaster risk management strategy.

[1] https://www.preventionweb.net/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf

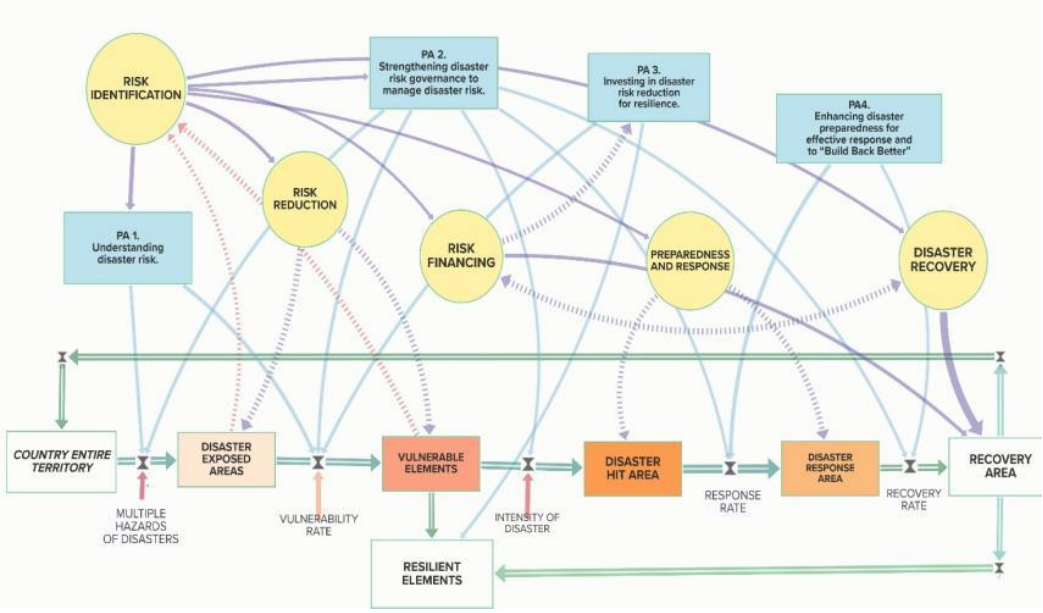
1.3 - Operationalizing the vision of Disaster Risk Management System

Development of the shared vision for the DRM System is important to align policies and actions in the country. However, it is equally important to make the vision a guiding tool for future operations. As a reference point for operationalization of the DRM system vision, five key dimensions or functional areas for DRM are suggested:

1. *Disaster Risk Identification – FA 1.*
2. *Disaster Risk Reduction – FA 2.*
3. *Preparedness for Disasters and Response – FA 3.*
4. *Disaster Recovery Framework – FA 4*
5. *Disaster Risk Financing – FA 5.*

The proposed dimensions and their functional peculiarities were introduced to the stakeholders during the online meeting. Following the meeting, an online survey was suggested to the stakeholders which helped to get their feedback and vision for needs and capacities of the DRM System in Albania and engagement of each stakeholder in the DRM system in the country.

Inclusion of functional areas offers system stakeholders and decision-makers to better visualize and understand a) potential participation of stakeholders in DRM system and b) consider necessary capacities for the DRM system to be strengthened with particular stakeholders. The chart below presents the integration of DRM functional areas and key dimensions into the System Map.



1.4 - Key Stakeholders. Roles in DRM System

Based on the information provided in the background documents, (including the Law "On Civil Protection" 45/2019") and the results of stakeholder consultations, the list of stakeholders was developed for further analysis and discussions. The following stakeholders are essential for the successful functioning of the DRM System in Albania, with the potential engagement in DRM areas.

1. **National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA)** – is the key player in the current settings of the DRM system in the country. It is the lead agency which has direct responsibility for ensuring the development of the DRM capacities in the country and engagement of other key stakeholders in specific functional areas. The areas of engagement include all ***five functional areas (FAs)*** of the DRM system. It is tasked with coordination of the work for the drafting of the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, the National Plan for Civil Emergencies and the Disaster Risk Assessment at the central level. The Agency organizes the work for capacity building of civil protection structures at the central and local level, as well as the training of private and voluntary entities. At the local level, according to the CP law, the Agency is organized and operates on a regional basis, through civil protection centres at 12 counties and Civil Protection Commissions at both counties and municipalities.

2. **Ministry of Defence (MOD) –** is a key stakeholder and decision-maker for the DRM system development. Currently, the NCPA is a part of the structure of the MOD. As such, the MOD plays an important role in deciding on the strategy and functions of the NCPA. It is engaged in all five functional areas.; The CP Law stipulates that the Army should be engaged in disaster management cycle operations if other available capacities are insufficient for this purpose, supporting institutions, central and local authorities and the community. Subordinate structure of the ministry is/operates also the National Centre of Search and Rescue Service.

3. **Prefectures (P) –** together with the Municipalities, the Prefectures are potential key partners for developing the decentralized system of disaster risk management in the country. While they are involved in all five functional areas, their role is especially important for disaster risk identification and preparedness. The new law has addressed the gaps in the functioning of regional and local authorities during past emergencies, by putting a greater emphasis on Prefects/ Mayors role in coordinating response structures at regional/local level.

4. **Municipalities (M) –** one of the major stakeholders in the DRM system of the country. Based on Law. 139/2015 "On Local Self-Government" *Municipalities are responsible for civil protection, at the local level, and administration of relevant structures, in the manner stipulated by law.* Experience of successful DRM systems shows that Municipalities are playing the fundamental role in ensuring resilience at the local level and preparedness for potential shocks. They are certainly involved in all key functional areas of DRM. They are tasked with the preparation of disaster risk assessments within 2021. Besides, they have to prepare and adopt DRR strategies at the municipality. Urban development plans in municipalities have to be harmonized with these disaster risk assessments and strategies. Further, the CP Law also requires preparation of Local Emergency plans by Municipalities

5. **Ministry of Interior (MOI) –** an important player in the DRM system in the country. The key player in the areas of disaster risk reduction (FA 2) and preparedness and response (FA 3). In addition to the public safety, MoI is tasked with the a) coordination with local government units and their associations; b) drafting policies, coordination and supervision of the fire protection service; c) protection and control of the territory and constructions. MoI contributes to Emergency Management through its subordinate structures such as State Police, General Directorate of Fire Fighting and Rescue; Local Government Supporting Agency and Directorate for Local Government and Prefectures, and recently National Inspectorate of Environment and Territory

6. **State Police (Police)** –They are active and operational structures during an emergency. Based on the level of the emergency they are activated by the head of operations. They have a very similar to the role of MOI, the key player for FA 2 and FA 3.

7. **Fire Protection and Rescue Service (FPRS) –** the stakeholder role is essential for preparedness and response areas (FA 3). Until 2015 the service operated under former general Directorate of Civil Emergencies within the Ministry of Interior. From 2015 when the law "On Fire Fighting and Rescue Services" was enacted, the mission of FP&R service hasn't changed despite the reform. The tasks of FP&R Directorate are standardization, control of all the implementation of the legal acts, in case of major fires, coordination of firefighting structures at the local level. General Directorate has only 6 persons. According to the Fire law, there should be 4 Departments, including Inspections, Logistic and Training. There is currently no Coordination Centre in the Directorate. The 2015 law also decentralized the fire service at the local level, putting them under Municipalities

8. **International Partners, NGOs and Donors (Donors) –** this group of stakeholders has played a vital role ever since the establishment of the Civil Emergency system in 2001 in Albania. The three main donors EU, WB, UN have assisted Albania, in particular also in recovery efforts in the aftermaths of disasters (frequent floods, and recent quake). Those and other donors have assisted also in developing the overall capacities of the DRM system in the country by sharing experience, building internal capacities and providing resources for further development. Active role in all five functional areas.

9. **Civil Protection Committee (CPC) –** the CPC important potential role is outlined in the Law. However, according to the stakeholders' opinion, this collective body has yet to be established. Potential areas of engagement include FA 2, and FA 5.

10. **Civil Protection Volunteer Service (CPVS) –** this is a voluntary structure, which is in the process of formation and development (established in 2013). It's currently an operational response structure. It provides also medical emergency services with ambulances during and emergency. It has a considerable potential to become an important player for decentralized effective DRM system. However, it needs a clear strategy and resources for its development. Effective engagement is possible in the FA 3 and FA 4.

11. **Institute of Geoscience, Energy, Water and Environment (IGEWE) –** an important player in the field of developing knowledge and understanding on existing and potential disaster risks. IGEWE

is identified as the national monitoring and warning structure for natural hazards of meteorological origin, including floods and wildfires, and earthquakes (MNMHS). As part of the Polytechnic University of Tirana, IGEWE is subordinated to the Ministry of Education and Sciences; which is a critical point in the enhancement of the operational capabilities of IGEWE. IGEWE provides information to the NCPA and other agencies (based on MoU-s signed), through its "National Centre for Forecast and Monitoring of Natural Risk". Also, it provides continuous information to, and cooperate with, the other structures of civil emergencies at the local level in analyzing and monitoring the situation and providing regular information. However, an integrated approach between the agencies is needed for overall improved service delivery. The main areas of IGEWE engagement include FA 1 and FA 2, with potential participation in FA 4.

12. **National Medical Emergency Service (NMES) –** Is responsible for the development of the emergency medical service system, through planning, management, management of all existing assets in a unified state system. It operates based on Law Nr. 147/2014, 'On Medical Emergency Service'. Disaster risk reduction and preparedness is an important element in the mission of the organization. During an emergency, they become an integral part of the operational forces and they have to coordinate action with them to provide an effective response (based on CP Law). They can play an active role in FA 2 and FA 3. Can also contribute useful information for disaster risk identification (FA 1).

13. **Albanian Red Cross (ARC) –** The activity of the ARC is based in Law 7894, 29.9.94 on "Albanian Red Cross". Potential role of ARC in the DRM is very similar to the previous partner in the list. In case of a civil emergency, ARC establishes information centres, carries out damages and needs assessment, provides first aid and psychosocial assistance/service, undertakes relief distribution and ensures normal living conditions for the affected population, given the mission of the organization, the active role can be considered for FA 2 and FA 3, with useful participation in the FA 1.

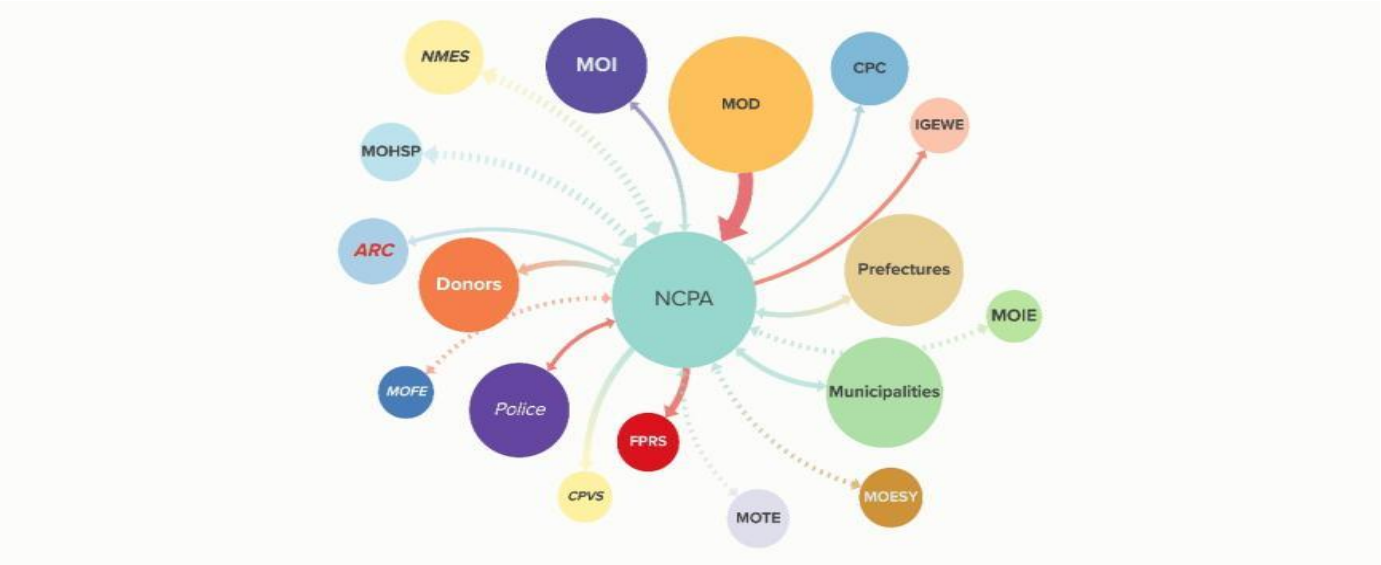
1. **Ministry of Finance and Economy (MFE) –** the stakeholder does not have direct engagement in the DRM system. However, it is important to build a clear vision and understand the specifics of DRM within the organization for two major reasons. First, it is important to incorporate the risk-informed development approach throughout the sectors of the economy and, second, the MFE is a major source of financial support for DRM system, which is crucial for overall capacity building and effective functioning. Critical support is expected for all five areas of the DRM.

2. **Line Ministries (LM) –** there are several key line ministries, which can be actively engaged in the DRM system. However, DRM is not directly part of their mission or at best is limited at managing their risk in their respective field of work. As such, at this moment their role seems to be quite limited, mainly engaging in FA 1 (risk identification) through information sharing and communication. It is important to identify the right strategies for better engagement of the Ministries in DRM system development and mainstreaming the DRM approach throughout their other functions. The following line ministries are engaged in the DRM system in Albania:

    a. Ministry of Tourism and Environment – MOTE

b. Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy - MOIE
c. Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth - MOESY
d. Ministry of Health and Social Protection - MOHSP
e. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development – MOARD
f. National Agency of Water Resources Management – (NAWRM)

The following picture presents the DRM-Albania System stakeholders at the glance.



1.5 - Engagement of Stakeholders in the DRM System Capacity Building in Albania

The participation of stakeholders in the DRM system is unique for each country. The successful participation is conditioned by several factors and criteria, which are conditioned by the interest of stakeholders in the development of the DRM system and potential influence over the processes in the system. The same approach can be applied to the process of DRM capacity building.

The criteria for stakeholder interests included potential benefits stakeholder can expect during and as a result of the capacity assessment and development processes, including:

a. Main mission
b. Part of the mission
c. Potential for new funding
d. Potential for new expenses (negative interest)

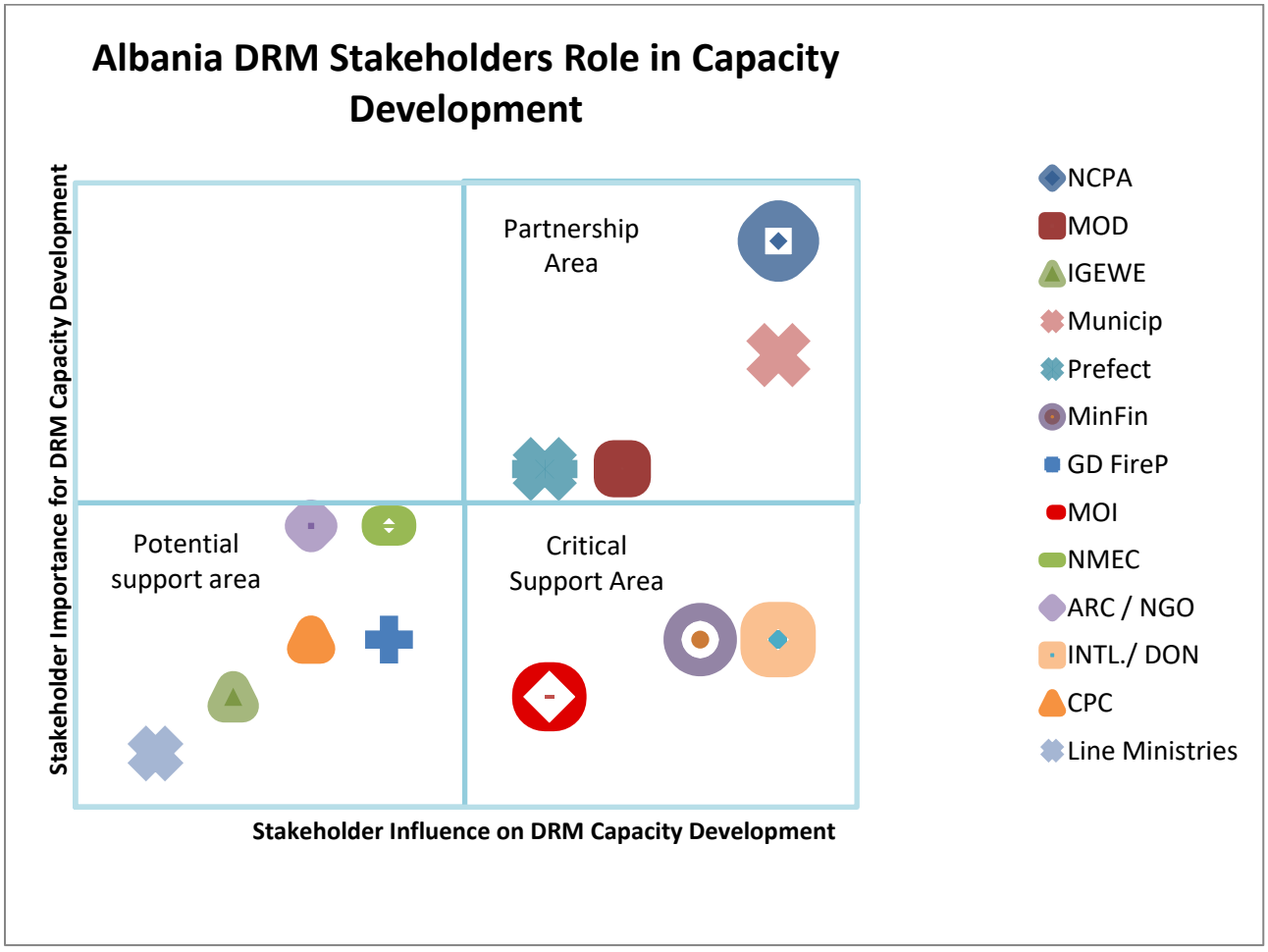
The influence of the stakeholder was assessed by the resources, which stakeholder can commit to the process, including:

a. Information sharing
b. Providing staff/human resource support

c. Providing funding and budget support

Based on the results of the online survey and the information received from the number of interviews and secondary sources, an initial assessment of stakeholders' interest and influence on the anticipated capacity assessment was assessed.

In the analysis, the potential areas of engagement, stakeholder mission and other factors were taken into account. The analytical table for the stakeholders has the following view.



This table provides the possibility to consider stakeholders in three different categories

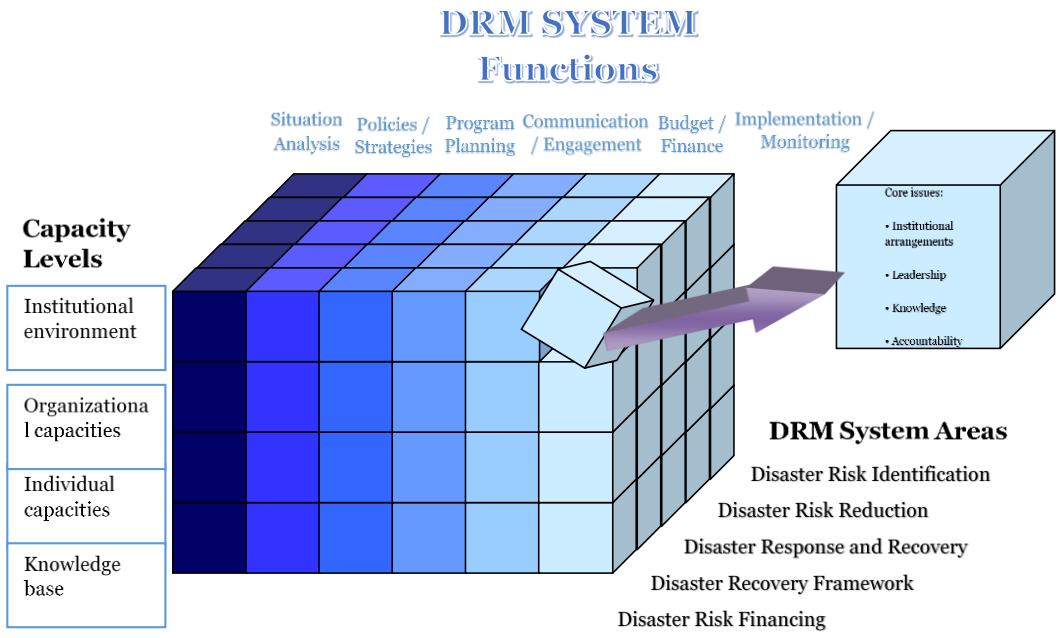
1. **Potential for Partnership** – stakeholders in this group share similar interests and can commit to providing resources for DRM System capacity assessment and development. They are potentially main players and beneficiaries of the future processes. Four stakeholders are identified in this category, including the NCPA, Ministry of Defense, Municipalities and Prefectures. These stakeholders must be included in all further processes connected with the capacity assessment and development.

2. **Critical Support Partners** – Stakeholders in this group possess significant influence and resources to support the overall process of capacity building in Albania. It is critically important to engage them as much as possible in future processes. At least, constant communication and information flow much be ensured throughout the process. They must also be involved in making critical decisions, especially regarding the identification, allocation and use of resources. The Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Finance and Economy and International Partners and Donors are suggested for this category.

3. **Potential Support Partners** – a large group of stakeholders, including line ministries and other organizations are considered as potential support partners. At least, the stakeholders in this group must be kept informed on the further processes of DRM capacity assessment and development. However, the future structure of capacity assessment may require the more in-depth engagement of some stakeholders in the process, including conducting the analysis and joint decision making. This will be discussed on a case-by-case basis, depending on the demonstrated interest of the stakeholder and emerging areas for DRM system capacity building.

1.6 - DRM System Capacity Assessment Tool

In order to better understand the system connections and interrelations, the DRM System Capacities were assessed as a combination of multi-dimensional factors impacting the level of the development of a given capacity area. The multidimensional nature of DRM capacities is presented in Figure below:



The assessment tool was the key instrument used in the assessment process, linking questions from the assessment questionnaire with four specific capacity dimensions:

Dimension A: DRM System Capacity Areas:

- ✓ CA III.1 – Disaster Risk Identification;
- ✓ CA .2 – Disaster Risk Reduction;
- ✓ CA 3 – Disaster Response and Early Recovery;
- ✓ CA 4 – Disaster Recovery Framework;
- ✓ CA 5 – Disaster Risk Financing.

Dimension B: Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030 (SF DRR) Four Priority Actions includes four priority areas, each with a set of capacity targets for countries to develop:

- ✓ Priority Action 1 – Understanding Disaster Risk;
- ✓ Priority Action 2 – Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance to Manage Disaster Risk;
- ✓ Priority Action 3 – Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience; and
- ✓ Priority Action 4 – Enhancing Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response and to "Build Back Better" in Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction.

Dimension C: Functions of DRM Capacity include the capacity to (1) conduct a situation assessment, (2) develop policies and regulations, (3) undertake planning programs and projects, (4) engage stakeholders, (5) build a budget that will provide necessary financing, (6) implement actions, (7) monitor and evaluate the process and the results. These seven functions are considered the main capacities for managing disaster risks and implementing effective DRM programs.

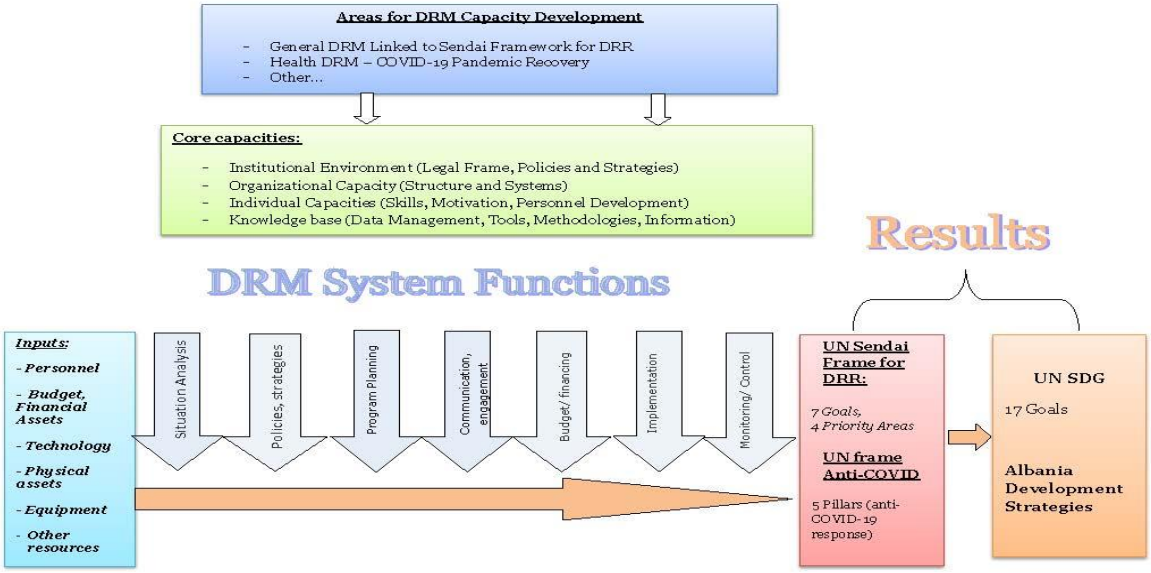
Dimension D: DRM Capacity Levels indicate categories, or levels, that correspond with each capacity. There are four main levels: institutional, organizational, individual and knowledge base.

- ✓ First, there is the overarching institutional environment and practices within which structures and systems operate, they can either enable or constrain DRM capacity. The institutional capacity level refers to the policies, procedures and processes that countries have in place to regulate and plan as well as manage development, implement the rule of law, measure changes and conduct other functions of the state.
- ✓ Second, there are organizational capacities, such as structures and systems, which shape how various actors come together to perform given functions, such as implementing a policy or program. For example, policies operate within a system that can either facilitate or constrain the performance of required functions.
- ✓ Third, there are skills individuals possess, they can be technical or functional. These skills can range from technical, such as the ability to conduct geospatial analysis, to an individual's professional motivation.
- ✓ The fourth and final capacity category is knowledge base, which ensures existing data, tools, methodologies, information, training materials, etc. are stored so that accumulated knowledge is not lost.

In addition, the core capacities of the DRM System were also analyzed in line with the 17 objectives of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Moreover, the relevant DRM capacities were also analyzed in view of addressing current developments connected with the spread of COVID-19 coronavirus and potential biological hazards.

1.7 - DRM Capacity Analytical Framework

The DRM Capacity Analytical Framework was developed to facilitate stakeholder discussion and bring attention to the roles of each DRM capacity area. The Framework outlines how functions relate and how capacity levels support the conversion of DRM system inputs, like staff and budget, into outputs, achieving DRM objectives. It also offers a view to links between each DRM capacity and how they will support the achievement of global development targets, such as SF DRR and SDG. See Figure below for a visual representation of the Framework



The effectiveness and efficiency of converting inputs into outputs are highly dependent on multidimensional DRM capacities. Currently, the Government of Albania is in the process of developing a new strategic document for DRM, from 2021 to 2030. It is expected that the outcomes of the DRM CA process will inform Albania's National Disaster Risk Management Strategy.

The main instruments of the DRM CA process, the assessment questionnaire and the assessment tool were developed based on this Analytical Framework. The Framework also guides the identification of future actions and the facilitation of communication with different stakeholders, all of which are integral components of the overall capacity development process.

For the Stakeholder Workshop, an Assessment Questionnaire was developed with a set of criteria and questions to be scored by participants. It contained cells for participants to provide comments about current capacities and make suggestions for future desired capacities for the period of 2021-2030. The

Assessment Questionnaire is presented in Annex 2. The scoring system was suggested for the assessment process.

SCORE	DESCRIPTION
1	Achievements are minor and there are few signs of planning or forward action to improve the situation.
2	Achievements have been made but are incomplete, and while improvements are planned, the commitment and capacities are limited.
3	There are some institutional commitment and capacities to achieving DRR/DRM goals, but progress is not comprehensive or substantial.
4	The substantial achievement has been attained, but with some recognised deficiencies in commitment, financial resources or operational capacities
5	The comprehensive achievement has been attained, with the commitment and capacities to sustain efforts at all levels.

For the scoring system, low scoring capacity areas indicate improvements are needed and will therefore be prioritized for the current period of capacity development. Scoring DRM capacities for future periods of capacity development has proven helpful for generating meaningful discussion on capacity development targets and recommended actions for each area.

In order to better reflect the vision of DRM stakeholders on the priority capacity areas, the scoring system also assumed the application of "coefficient of importance". Each score was multiplied by the importance grade applied to a given capacity. There were three importance grades used for the scoring: "1 – low importance, 2 – average, and 3 – high importance". Such prioritization helped to better reflect the vision of the DRM system stakeholders and better identify the areas needs priority attention.

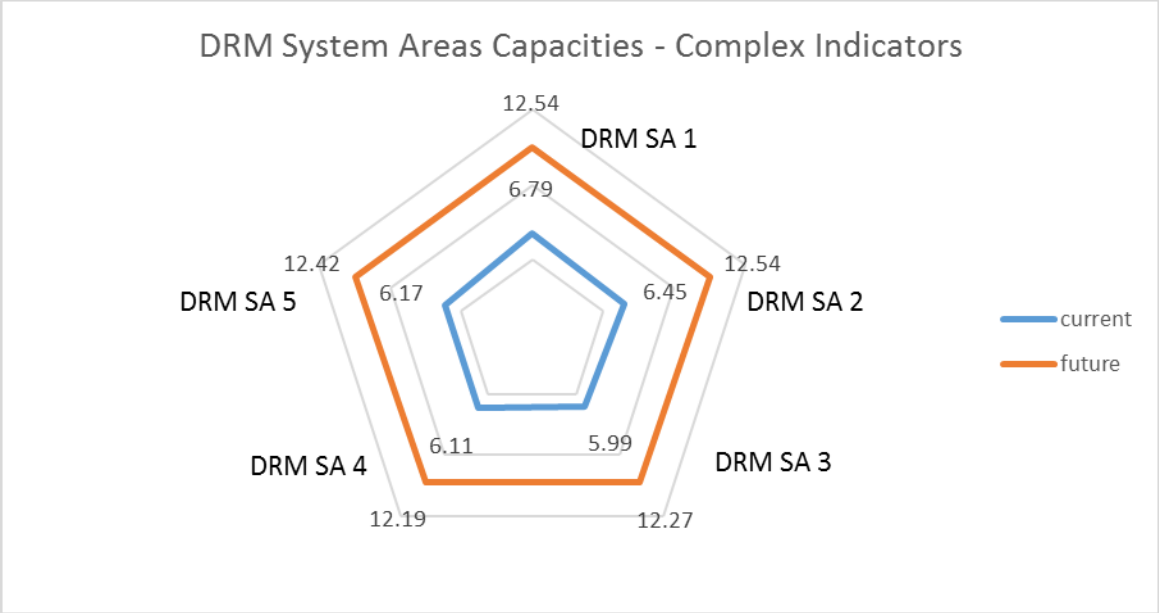
After the assessment questionnaire is completed, the capacity assessment analytical tool supports the analysis of the responses received and produces the initial results of the capacity assessment. This task is performed in MS Excel.

1.8 - Results and Findings

The results of the DRM CA were analyzed in accordance with each dimension presented in the Analytical Framework. The first analysis, of three, was made following the Five DRM System Areas, including:

- ✓ DRM SA 1 – Disaster Risk Identification;
- ✓ DRM SA 2 – Disaster Risk Reduction;
- ✓ DRM SA 3 – Disaster Response and Early Recovery;
- ✓ DRM SA 4 – Disaster Recovery Framework;
- ✓ DRM SA 5 – Disaster Risk Financing.

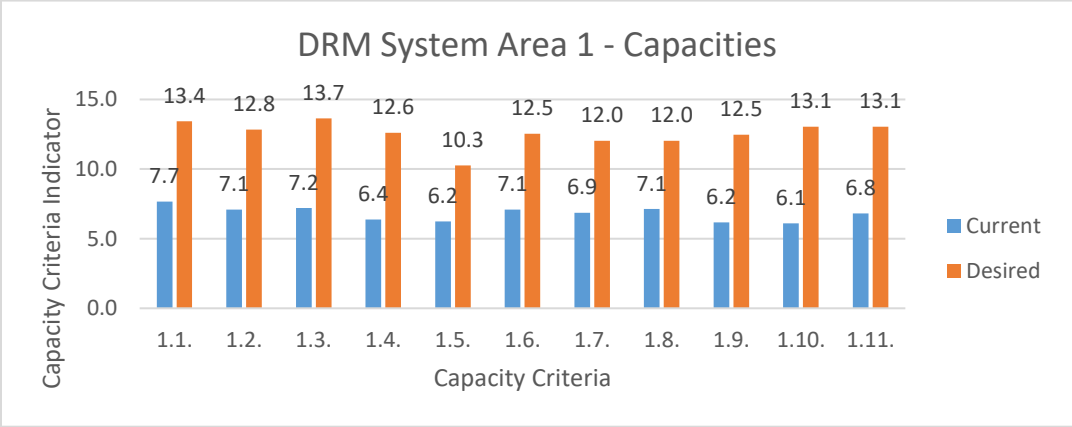
1 Comparative Analysis by DRM System Capacity Areas



The lowest combined scoring was given to the current capacity level of DRM SA 3 – Disaster Preparedness and Response, while the highest score was given to DRM SA1 – Disaster Risk Identification. Interestingly enough that the DRM SA 5 – Disaster Risk Financing was provided with an average score compared to other areas. It is important to highlight that during the preliminary discussions with some stakeholders, the financing for DRM system was mentioned as the neediest and priority area.

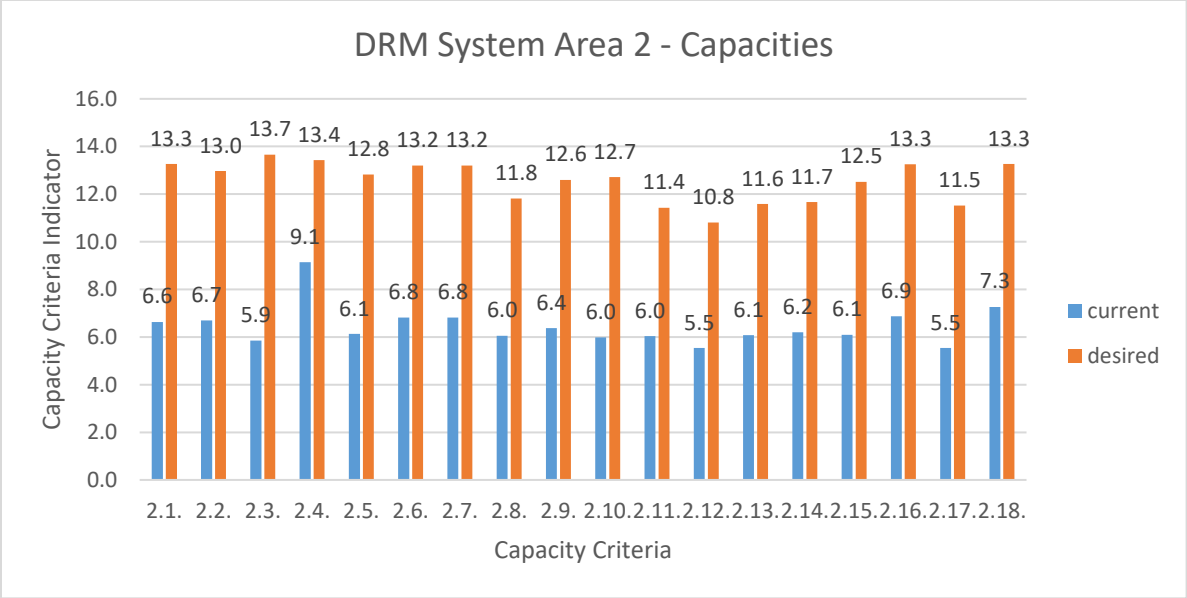
While the chart above provides a general combined view of all DRM System Capacities, the detailed analysis of components of each of the system area provides yet more information on the stakeholders' priorities and assessment of the situation.

1.a DRM SA 1 – Disaster Risk Identification



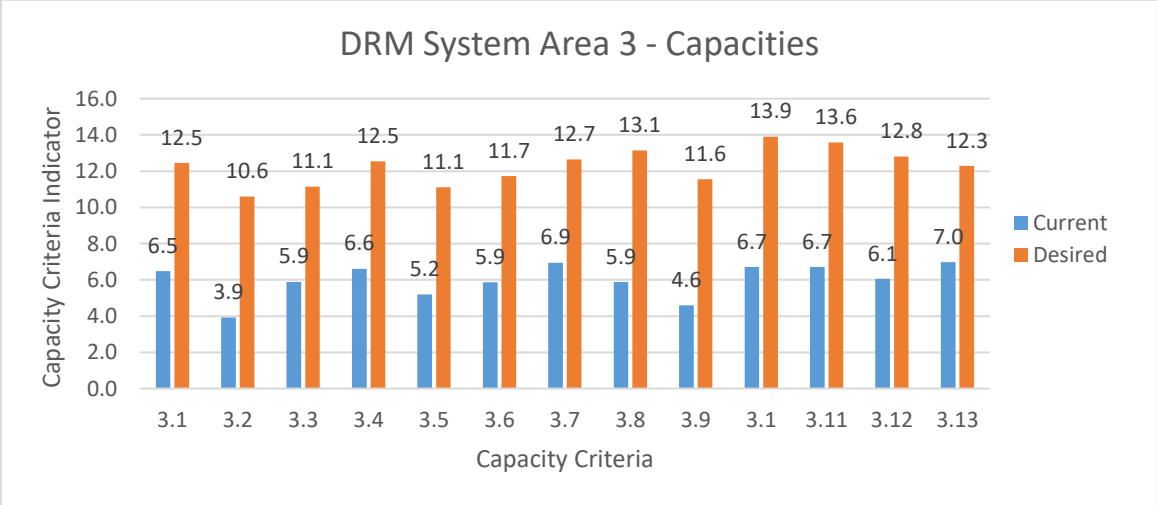
In this group, all criteria describing the capacities of the DRM System for disaster risk identification and assessed. The lowest scores for the current level of capacities are provided for the criteria 1.5, 1.9, 1.10. These criteria are considered as priority areas for future capacity building plan.

1.b DRM SA 2 – Disaster Risk Reduction



This group contains the largest number of assessment criteria among all categories. Respectively more areas for future capacity building plan are suggested under this category. The lowest scoring for the current capacities is registered for capacity indicators 2.3 2.12, and 2.17. Several criteria prioritized in this category also impact the preparedness for biological hazards and risks.

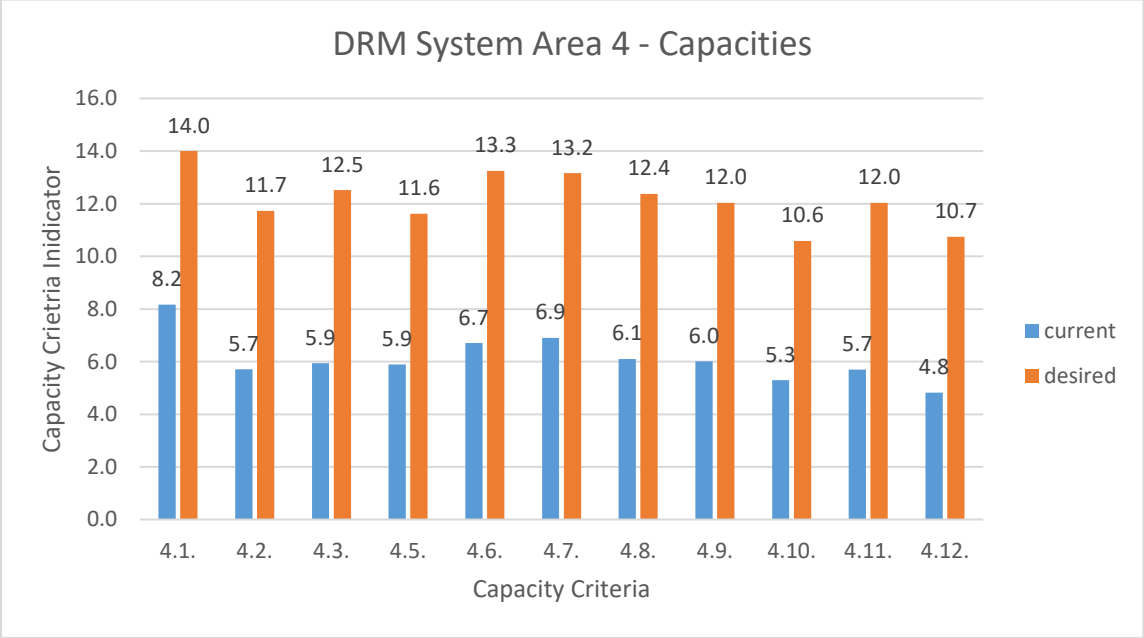
1.c DRM SA 3 – Disaster Risk Preparedness and Early Recovery



Overall, this capacity area scored the lowest among all categories. At the same time, the importance of criteria was scored very high. That means that participants of the assessment workshop highlighted

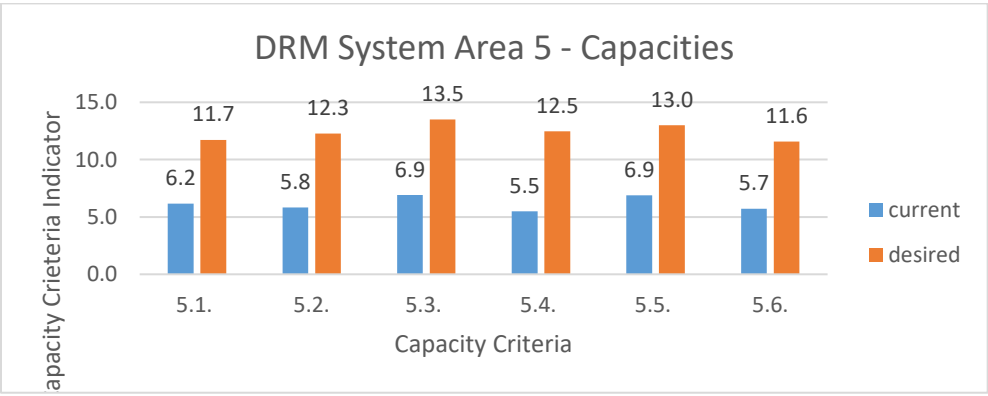
preparedness of the DRM system for existing risks and hazards. The lowest scores are given to the current level of capacity criteria 3.2, 3.9, 3.5.

1.d DRM SA 4 – Disaster Recovery Framework



Disaster Recovery Framework is an essential capacity for the DRM system, which enables to effectively plan, mobilize resources and implement recovery strategies using "building back better" approach. It implies a system of various capacities at institutional, legal, organizational, and individual levels. The lowest scored current capacities include 4.12, 4.10, and 4.2.

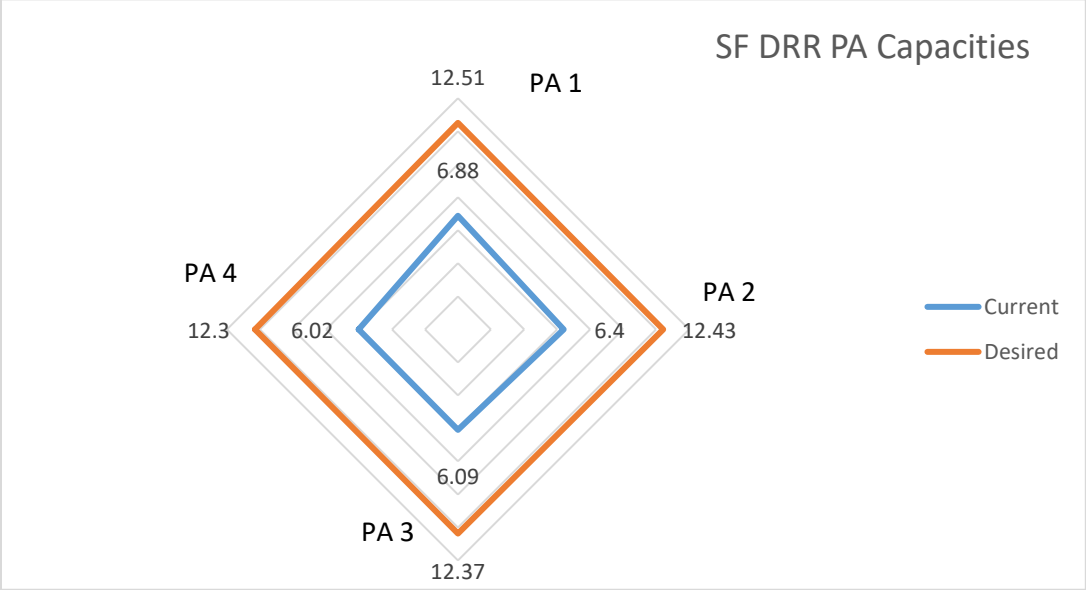
1.e DRM SA 5 – Disaster Risk Financing



During the Stakeholder Analysis, a group of DRM Experts mentioned the low capacities for disaster risk financing in Albania. However, during the Capacity Assessment workshop, the overall rating for this area

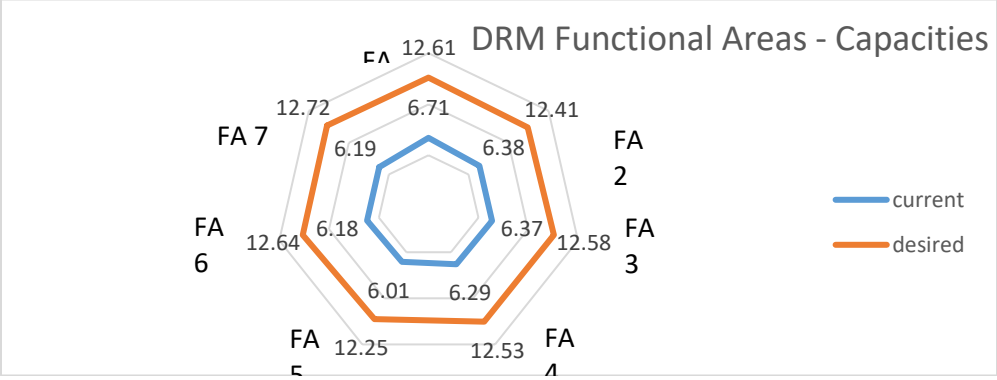
was among the top three. The lowest scores in this category were given to criteria 5.2, 5.4, and 5.6 of current capacities.

2 Comparative Analysis by Sendai Priority Areas



The current and future capacity criteria were assessed by Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction Priority Areas. The lowest scores are provided for current capacities for Disaster Recovery Framework and Disaster Preparedness. Such results can be also connected with the recent earthquake in Albania in 2019 and the pace of implementation of recovery works. However, the response and recovery capacities were prioritized for future development. Another relatively 'weak' capacities were identified in the area of investments in DRR and resilience building.

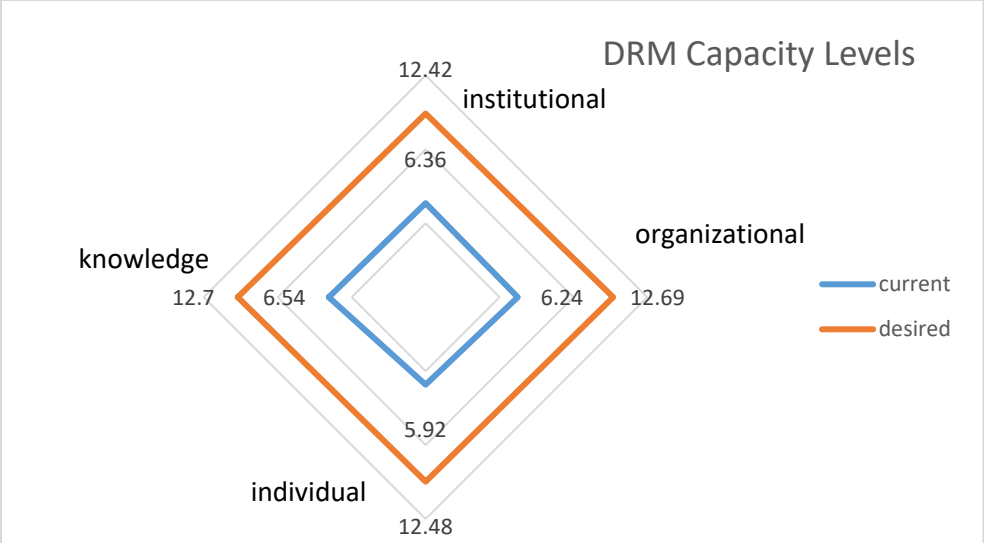
2.a Comparative Analysis by DRM Functional Areas



According to the results of the assessment, the DRM system functional areas are in a relatively balanced situation. A higher level of capacities is highlighted for system capacities to assess the situation, while the

lowest level of current capacities is in managing budgets and financing. It is interesting to note the high importance provided to strengthening the system capacities for monitoring and controlling the DRM processes in the country.

2.b Comparative Analysis by DRM Capacity Levels



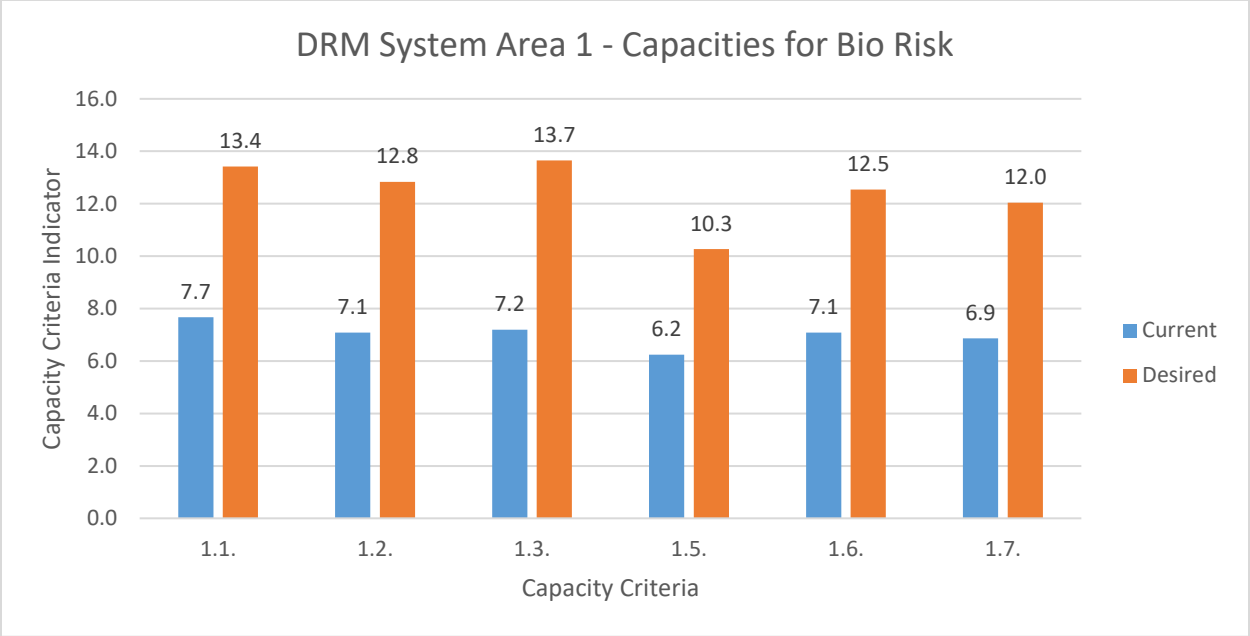
One of the important dimensions of the DRM system is the “level of capacities”. Certain capacities can be located at different levels, including institutional, organizational, individual and knowledge levels. The participants of the capacity assessment scored low the current level of individual capacities, thus suggesting focusing on human resource development in the future planning process.

3 Analysis for DRM System Capacities Addressing Biological Risks

The universal nature of the Sendai Frame for Disaster Risk Reduction allows applying DRM System capacity criteria for different types of hazards and risks, including the biological risks. Given the importance of developing the country capacity against biological hazards, a set of interconnected criteria was analysed to develop an insight on the existing capacities and also shed light to the capacity development needs in this regard.

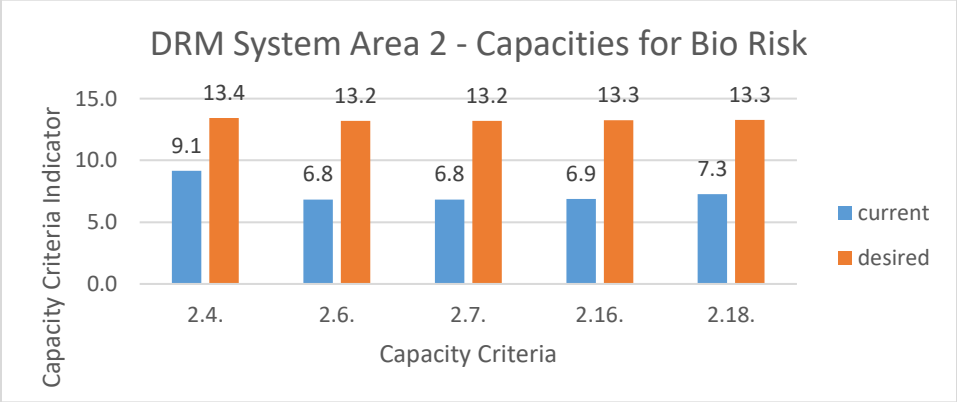
In all DRM System Areas set of capacity criteria were identified, which have clear relevance to biological risk identification and mitigation, response and recover. The current assessment provides the initial vision on the prioritization of some of the capacities, however, there is a need to further investigate the existing specific capacities in the country, with focus on the areas impacted more by the spread of COVID-19 coronavirus. In addition to the suggested set of DRM related criteria, other elements and factors shall be taken into accounts, such as response capacity of the health sector, the status of public health institutions, community preparedness and others.

3.a DRM SA 1 – Biological Risk Identification



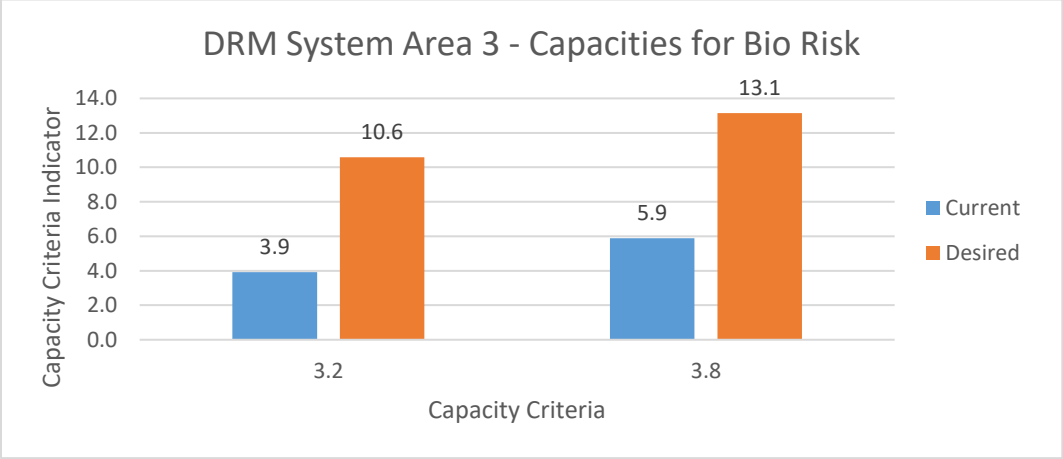
In the first area of the DRM system, six capacity criteria were identified, which are relevant for biological risk identification. The scoring for these criteria is presented in the picture above. The lowest criteria are 1.5 and 1.7, which require further analysis and attention. The first one calls for an adaptation of existing knowledge to the local circumstances and using community structures for spreading the knowledge on possible threats and hazards. The second priority area suggests paying attention to the incorporation of risk information in the local policies, procedures and plans, which is a prerequisite for a safe and sustainable development at all levels.

3.b DRM SA 2 – Biological Risk Reduction



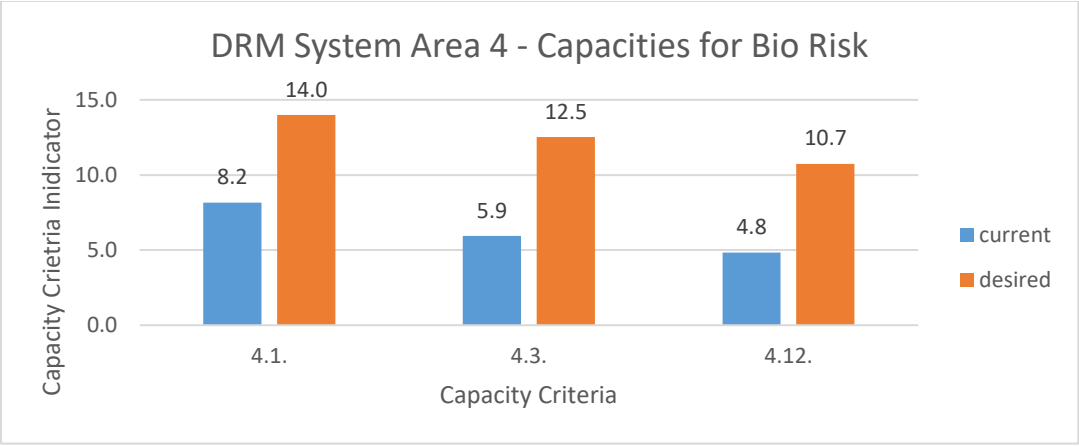
In the DRM System Area for risk reduction, a set of five criteria are suggested, among which the lowest scored are criteria 2.6 and 2.7. These two important criteria highlighting the necessity for adoption of targeted disaster risk management plans at all levels, with strict adherence to the standards and norms of safety and security and focusing on comprehensive resilience building, including health-related resilience.

3.c DRM SA 3 – Biological Risk Preparedness and Response



The two important criteria are considered for biological hazard issues under the group of DRM System Area 3, Risk Preparedness and Response. The most important criteria highlighted by the participants of the assessment focuses on the need to have human-oriented approach in developing response and recovery measures for all vulnerable groups, especially for the people with specific needs and chronic diseases. Their needs must be addressed before, during and after the health disasters.

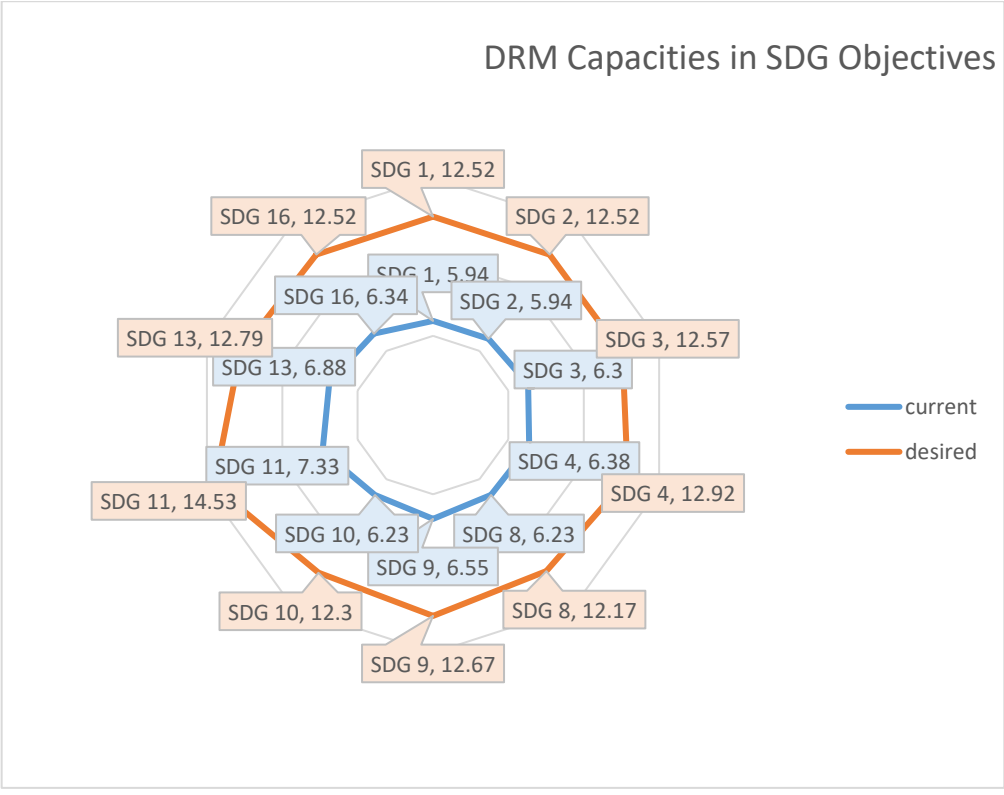
3.d DRM SA 4 – Biological Disaster Recovery Framework



In the group of DRM System Area 4, Biological Disaster Recovery, the most critical aspect outlined by the participants is a need for psychological support to people during and after the disasters. Multiple assessments of the impact of COVID-19 coronavirus on the health and emotional status of population done in different countries, show that the mental and psychological health suffer much more than the physical health. In some countries, the number of people with mental health issues connected with the spread of coronavirus and restrictive measures ten times higher than the number of reported cases with the physical health problems, including the number of COVID-19 infected people. While the issue of post-disaster psychological support was boldly highlighted during the coronavirus pandemic, the need for such support is true for all kind of post-disaster recovery processes.

4 DRM System Capacities in SDG Targets

Disaster Risk Management Capacities are closely linked with the targets of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Development of certain DRM capacities will strengthen the overall capability of the country for the implementation of the SDG objectives. In this connection, the most relevant capacities related to the specific SDG targets are grouped and analyzed. The diagram below demonstrates the scoring of combined indicators of DRM capacities aligned for the respective SDG objectives.



It is interesting to note that the lowest scores in this dimension of capacities are given to DRM factors in SDG objectives 1 and 2. This finding indicates about the negative impact of potential disasters on the most vulnerable people. In case of disasters, the poor and vulnerable group of the population will suffer most. Thus, their interests must be taken into account while designing and developing new policies and programs to strengthen the resilience at the community level.

1.9 - DRM System Capacity Development Recommendations for Albania

1.9.1 - DRM System Area 1 – Disaster Risk Identification

The disaster risk identification and information sharing is the critical area for effective management of multiple disaster hazards and risks. The following capacities were prioritized by the participants of the assessment for the DRM system in Albania.

DRM CA	Biohazard	DRM System Area 1 - Disaster Risk Identification
		Capacity Criteria
1.4.	Bio risk	To promote real-time access to reliable data, make use of space and in situ information, including geographic information systems (GIS), and use information and communications technology innovations to enhance measurement tools and the collection, analysis and dissemination of data;
1.5.		To ensure the use of traditional, indigenous and local knowledge and practices, as appropriate, to complement scientific knowledge in disaster risk assessment and the development and implementation of policies, strategies, plans and programmes of specific sectors, with a cross-sector approach, which should be tailored to localities and to the context;
1.9.	Bio risk	To carry out an assessment of the technical, financial and administrative disaster risk management capacity to deal with the identified risks at the local and national levels;
1.10.		To promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk assessments into land-use policy development and implementation, including urban planning, land degradation assessments and informal and non-permanent housing, and the use of guidelines and follow-up tools informed by anticipated demographic and environmental changes;
1.11.		To promote the mainstreaming of disaster risk assessment, mapping and management into rural development planning and management of, inter alia, mountains, rivers, coastal flood plain areas, drylands, wetlands and all other areas prone to droughts and flooding, including through the identification of areas that are safe for human settlement, and at the same time preserving ecosystem functions that help to reduce risks;

The following specific actions can be recommended for the DRM System to strengthen the Risk Understanding capacity at national and local levels.

I. *To develop a strategy for the use of modern technologies, such as GIS system, drones, and IT systems in the identification of disaster risks at local and national levels;*
II. *To develop an effective methodology and approach for Community-Level Risk Management (CLRM) to be applied in all locations of the country;*
III. *To build the capacities of local stakeholders for an effective application of the CLRM in developing local strategies and initiatives;*
IV. *To mainstream the disaster risk management in urban and rural development policies and planning processes;*
V. *To build the technical, financial and administrative capacities of key stakeholders for risk-informed development;*
VI. *To establish effective communication and information sharing system on disaster risk with the use of open source technologies and communication portals;*
VII. *To apply the comprehensive "Understanding Risk" approach in the future DRM Strategy.*

1.9.2 - DRM System Area 2 – Disaster Risk Reduction

The disaster risk reduction process requires the "whole of the society" approach to be effective in the process of building resilience at all levels. The existing and emerging threats and hazards require an agile Disaster Risk Management system to be in place to effectively address multi-hazard risks and ensure effective use of scarce resources of the society and communities. During the assessment, the following capacity areas were prioritized by the stakeholders of the DRM system in Albania.

DRM SA	Bio Hazard	DRM System Area 2 – Risk Reduction
		Capacity Criteria
2.3.	Bio-risk	To promote the incorporation of disaster risk knowledge, including disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation, in formal and non-formal education, as well as in civic education at all levels, as well as in professional education and training
2.4.	Bio - risk	To promote national strategies to strengthen public education and awareness in disaster risk reduction, including disaster risk information and knowledge, through campaigns, social media and community mobilization, taking into account specific audiences and their needs;
2.5.		To mainstream and integrate disaster risk reduction within and across all sectors and review and promote the coherence and further development, as appropriate, of national and local frameworks of laws, regulations and public policies, which, by defining roles and responsibilities, guide the public and private sectors
2.9.		**To establish and strengthen government coordination forums composed of relevant stakeholders at the national and local levels, such as national and local platforms for disaster risk reduction, and a designated national focal point for implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.**

DRM SA	Bio Hazard	DRM System Area 2 – Risk Reduction
2.10.	Bio risk	To empower local authorities, as appropriate, through regulatory and financial means to work and coordinate with civil society, communities and indigenous peoples and migrants in disaster risk management at the local level;
2.11.		To encourage parliamentarians to support the implementation of disaster risk reduction by developing new or amending relevant legislation and setting budget allocations;
2.12.		To promote the development of quality standards, such as certifications and awards for disaster risk management, with the participation of the private sector, civil society, professional associations, scientific organizations and the UN;
2.15.		To encourage the revision of existing or the development of new building codes and standards, rehabilitation and reconstruction practices at the national or local levels, as appropriate, to make them more applicable within the local context, particularly in informal and marginal human settlements, and reinforce the capacity to implement, survey and enforce such codes through an appropriate approach, with a view to fostering disaster-resistant structures;
2.17.		To strengthen the sustainable use and management of ecosystems and implement integrated environmental and natural resource management approaches that incorporate disaster risk reduction;

A set of interconnected actions can be recommended to the NCPA to consider in the process of strengthening the overall capacities of a DRM system for disaster risk reduction.

I. *To establish the effective National Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, engaging all key stakeholders in the process of addressing multiple disaster risks in the country;*
II. *Promote the development of local platforms on DRR in provinces and communities;*
III. *To engage the parliamentarians in the DRM system governance, through initiating parliamentarian hearings and participating in the legislative work to develop a supportive environment for disaster risk reduction;*
IV. *To further strengthen the overall capacities of the DRM system in the country by clarifying the roles and responsibilities of all engaged stakeholders, enabling the DRM responsible agency (NCPA) for effective coordination of the DRM system and empowering local municipalities and private sector for effective engagement in local DRR activities;*
V. *To increase awareness on DRM and engagement of the public and private sectors in the area by developing and implementing an effective communication and outreach campaign, delivering communication products tailored to the needs of specific audiences;*
VI. *Develop and implement the strategy for integration of DRR in the general education system in Albania, to build the culture of resilience and preparedness for disasters;*
VII. *To further improve building codes and standards in the country, ensuring strict adherence to the established norms and requirements to avoid the development of new risks.*

1.9.3 - DRM System Area 3 – Disaster Risk Preparedness and Response

Disaster preparedness and response is a critical capacity of the DRM system, which allows to effectively respond in case of any disaster, to mobilise local and external resources for the first reaction to save lives and protect livelihoods of local people. The effective preparedness and response assume coordinated efforts at community (local), national and international levels. The following critical capacity areas were highlighted by the stakeholders during the capacity assessment process.

DRM CA	Biohazard	DRM System Area 3 - Risk Preparedness and Response
		Capacity Criteria
3.2.	Bio - risk	People with life-threatening and chronic disease, due to their particular needs, should be included in the design of policies and plans to manage their risks before, during and after disasters, including having access to life-saving services;
3.5.		To strengthen the protection of livelihoods and productive assets, including livestock, working animals, tools and seeds;
3.6.	Bio risk	To promote and integrate disaster risk management approaches throughout the tourism industry, given the often-heavy reliance on tourism as a key economic driver.
3.8.	Bio risk	To invest in, develop, maintain and strengthen people-centred multi-hazard, multi-sector forecasting and early warning systems, disaster risk and emergency communications mechanisms, social technologies and hazard-monitoring telecommunications systems; develop such systems through a participatory process; tailor them to the needs of users, including social and cultural requirements, in particular gender; promote the application of simple and low-cost early warning equipment and facilities; and broaden release channels for natural disaster early warning information;
3.9.	Bio risk	To establish community centres for the promotion of public awareness and the stockpiling of necessary materials to implement rescue and relief activities;
3.13.		To review and strengthen, as appropriate, national laws and procedures on international cooperation, based on the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance.

Based on the results of the assessment, the following actions can be recommended for DRM System in Albania.

I. *To further develop and strengthen the effectiveness of the DRM early warning systems in the country, considering low-cost equipment and facilities;*
II. *To strengthen the preparedness of local communities for potential disasters by establishing community DRR structures and forming local self-help groups to be activated during the disasters;*
III. *To deepen the participation of local community members in addressing the risks of potential disasters by implementing participatory community-level disaster risk assessments;*

IV. *To strengthen the agility of local economic, social and environmental infrastructure to ensure the continuity of their functioning in case of disasters;*

V. *To further improve the legislative framework in the country to facilitate prompt international assistance in case of major disasters and catastrophes.*

1.9.4 – DRM System Area 4 – Disaster Recovery Framework

DRM SA	Biohazard	DRM System Area 4 - Disaster Recovery Framework
		Capacity Criteria
4.2.		To formulate public policies, where applicable, aimed at addressing the issues of prevention or relocation, where possible, of human settlements in disaster risk-prone zones, subject to national law and legal systems.
4.3.	Bio risk	To strengthen the design and implementation of inclusive policies and social safety-net mechanisms, including through community involvement, integrated with livelihood enhancement programmes, and access to basic health-care services, including maternal, new-born and child health, sexual and reproductive health, food security and nutrition, housing and education, towards the eradication of poverty, to find durable solutions in the post-disaster phase and to empower and assist people disproportionately affected by disasters;
4.8.		To promote the incorporation of disaster risk management into post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes, facilitate the link between relief, rehabilitation and development, use opportunities during the recovery phase to develop capacities that reduce disaster risk in the short, medium and long term, including through the development of measures such as land-use planning, structural standards improvement and the sharing of expertise, knowledge, post-disaster reviews and lessons learned and integrate post-disaster reconstruction into the economic and social sustainable development of affected areas. This should also apply to temporary settlements for persons displaced by disasters;
4.10.		To consider the relocation of public facilities and infrastructures to areas outside the risk range, wherever possible, in the post-disaster reconstruction process, in consultation with the people concerned, as appropriate;
4.11.	Bio risk	To establish a mechanism of case registry and a database of mortality caused by disaster in order to improve the prevention of morbidity and mortality;
4.12.	Bio risk	To enhance recovery schemes to provide psychosocial support and mental health services for all people in need;

Post-disaster recovery is critical in the process of addressing the consequences of disasters and re-shaping the development processes in disaster-affected areas and communities. The future DRM Strategy shall focus on strengthening the institutional, legal and organizational framework for post-disaster recovery. In particular, the following actions can be recommended for future considerations.

I. *To develop an institutional framework for post-disaster recovery focusing on addressing the needs of affected communities and people, applying the "building back better" principle.*
II. *The future post-disaster recovery framework shall guide the process of developing the relevant capacities of the key stakeholders for post-disaster needs assessment, resource mobilisation, effective recovery planning, implementation of programs and projects, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the recovery strategy;*
III. *To establish and maintain an effective database on disasters, disaster impact, damages and loses, and post-recovery investments made;*
IV. *To adopt local methodologies for a post-disaster needs assessment to allow quick development of recovery plans;*
V. *To clearly outline roles and responsibilities of DRM system players in the post-disaster recovery process;*
VI. *To develop policies and procedures for effective use of the public-private partnership approach during the post-disaster recovery process;*
VII. *To develop capacities for providing psychological and mental support to the disaster affected people, during and after the disasters, and also post-disaster recovery process.*

1.9.5 - DRM System Area 5 – Financing Disaster Risk

Disaster risk financing is the cornerstone of the effective disaster risk management system in any country. While the large share of DRM system financing is provided by the state (as public goods), there is a growing engagement of private sector in financing the disaster risks with the use of various tools and methods. During the DRM system capacity assessment, the Albanian stakeholders outlined the following critical capacities for the system.

DRM SA	SFA - PA	DRM System Area 5 - Disaster Risk Financing
		Capacity Criteria
5.2.	2e	To develop and strengthen, as appropriate, mechanisms to follow up, periodically assess and publicly report on progress on national and local plans; and promote public scrutiny and encourage institutional debates, including by parliamentarians and other relevant officials, on progress reports of local and national plans for disaster risk reduction;
5.4.	3b	To promote mechanisms for disaster risk transfer and insurance, risk-sharing and retention and financial protection, as appropriate, for both public and private investment in order to reduce the financial impact of disasters on Governments and societies, in urban and rural areas;

DRM SA	SFA - PA	DRM System Area 5 - Disaster Risk Financing
5.6.	3m	To promote, as appropriate, the integration of disaster risk reduction considerations and measures in financial and fiscal instruments;

In order to develop critical capacities for disaster risk financing, the following steps can be recommended.

I. *To implement targeted awareness-raising strategy on the use of resources in DRM sector to increase public support and appreciation by the community members;*
II. *To engage parliamentarians in the DRR National Platform to support the resource mobilization for the sector;*
III. *To develop a strategy for effective engagement of the private sector in DRM with use of public-private partnership and effective methods for disaster risk financing, such as insurance schemes;*
IV. *To consider disaster risk mitigation measures in all programs and projects receiving public financing or support (whenever it is applicable).*

1.10 - DRM System Capacities against Biohazards and Pandemics

The universal nature of DRM System Capacities characterizes their applicability for different types of hazards and disasters, including biological hazards and epidemics and pandemics. The set of critical capacities of the DRM system, essential for effective identification, mitigation and preparedness for biological disasters are provided below. Since all these criteria are already discussed in the sections above, a conclusion can be drawn that all the suggested actions to strengthen the DRM specific capacities will ultimately contribute to building the resilience of Albania against biological hazards.

The table below presents the selection of DRM capacities relevant to biological hazards and their connection to the main capacity areas of the DRM system of Albania.

DRM CA		DRM System Capacities Related to Bio Hazard and Risk of Pandemics
	##	**Capacity Criteria**
1	**1**	To promote real-time access to reliable data, make use of space and in situ information, including geographic information systems (GIS), and use information and communications technology innovations to enhance measurement tools and the collection, analysis and dissemination of data;
1	**2**	To carry out an assessment of the technical, financial and administrative disaster risk management capacity to deal with the identified risks at the local and national levels;
2	**3**	To promote the incorporation of disaster risk knowledge, including disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation, in formal and non-formal education, as well as in civic education at all levels, as well as in professional education and training

DRM CA		DRM System Capacities Related to Bio Hazard and Risk of Pandemics
2	4	To promote national strategies to strengthen public education and awareness in disaster risk reduction, including disaster risk information and knowledge, through campaigns, social media and community mobilization, taking into account specific audiences and their needs;
3	5	People with life-threatening and chronic disease, due to their particular needs, should be included in the design of policies and plans to manage their risks before, during and after disasters, including having access to life-saving services;
3	6	To promote and integrate disaster risk management approaches throughout the tourism industry, given the often heavy reliance on tourism as a key economic driver.
3	7	To invest in, develop, maintain and strengthen people-centred multi-hazard, multi-sector forecasting and early warning systems, disaster risk and emergency communications mechanisms, social technologies and hazard-monitoring telecommunications systems; develop such systems through a participatory process; tailor them to the needs of users, including social and cultural requirements, in particular gender; promote the application of simple and low-cost early warning equipment and facilities; and broaden release channels for natural disaster early warning information;
3	8	To establish community centres for the promotion of public awareness and the stockpiling of necessary materials to implement rescue and relief activities;
4	9	To strengthen the design and implementation of inclusive policies and social safety-net mechanisms, including through community involvement, integrated with livelihood enhancement programmes, and access to basic health-care services, including maternal, new-born and child health, sexual and reproductive health, food security and nutrition, housing and education, towards the eradication of poverty, to find durable solutions in the post-disaster phase and to empower and assist people disproportionately affected by disasters;
4	10	To establish a mechanism of case registry and a database of mortality caused by disaster in order to improve the prevention of morbidity and mortality;
4	11	To enhance recovery schemes to provide psychosocial support and mental health services for all people in need;

1.11 - Potential Framework for Post-COVID-19 Recovery Process

Given the importance of the immediate effective recovery after COVID-19 pandemic, several capacity criteria outlined above are suggested to be used for post-pandemic recovery. The main principle applied for the recovery process should be guided by the “Recovery Back Better” approach outlined in the UN Five Pillars for Pandemic Recovery. The post-pandemic Recovery Framework could be summarized in the following table.

Post-pandemic Recovery Framework. Building Back Better

RISK IDENTIFICATION AND REDUCTION	FOCUSING ON COMMUNITY SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY	SYSTEM APPROACH FOR RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION
1. Identification of biological/health-related risk zones 2. Installing Early Warning Systems in communities 3. Biological Risk Reduction Education 4. Strengthening Resilience of the Health Sector	1. Providing psychological support to community members 2. Implementing effective social protection measures 3. Implementation of an effective economic recovery plan	1. Engaging stakeholders 2. Strengthening institutions and legal framework 3. Effective monitoring and evaluation system 4. Effective public awareness campaign.

It is recommended to consider building relevant capacities for the country to integrate biological risk management in the process of strengthening the DRM System in Albania.

1.12 - Recommendations for developing DRM Strategy in Albania

The whole process of disaster risk management system capacity assessment is considered as a main preparatory step for developing the National DRRM Strategy for Albania for 2021-2030. The following ten essentials developed by a consideration of the worldwide experience in similar exercises can be recommended for Albania. In the process of developing the new DRRM strategy, the set of recommendations and actions suggested in the current report can be considered.

1.12.1 - Alignment with the National Strategies and SF DRR

The future DRM Strategy shall be aligned with the national development plans and Sendai Framework for DRR. The system approach outlined in the current report can serve as a basis for aligning the future DRM strategy with these strategic documents. One of the ways to aligning the strategy is to consider the application of SF DRR Priority Actions in the content of the strategy.

1.12.2 - SF DRR Priority Action 1 – Understanding Risk

The future DRM Strategy shall have a certain level of agility and flexibility to allow effective adaptation to the emerging needs, threats and new hazards. In this process, it is critical building the strategic capacity in the system for identification of new hazards and threats, and new risks which can jeopardize the development of the country.

1.12.3 - SF DRR Priority Action 2 – Risk Governance

The successful implementation of the future strategy will highly depend on the effectiveness of Disaster Risk Governance. In this direction, building capacities of the key players of the DRM system is an essential

component of the future strategy. The current assessment and suggested actions can be considered as the core for the future DRM Strategy Action Plan.

1.12.4 - SF DRR Priority Action 3 – Investing in Risk Management and Resilience Building

The future strategy shall outline new potentials for increasing the investments in the DRM areas and building resilience at all levels. It may consider revision and upgrading the existing legal and policy framework, new modalities for public-private partnerships and integration of risk mitigation measures into development plans and programs at all levels. The recommendations of the current report provided in the previous section can be further developed and expanded.

1.12.5 - SF DRR Priority Action 4 – "Building Back Better" Disaster Response, Reconstruction and Recovery Framework

The main conceptual approach in this regard should be a provision of essential elements for disaster response actions and post-disaster recovery strategies. Several specific recommendations are provided in the previous section of the report.

1.12.6 - Prevention of New Risks

Prevention of new risks of disasters is an essential factor in building resilience at the national and community levels. As such, the strategy shall provide main directions for the integration of risk-informed decision making in the planning and programming at local and national levels.

1.12.7 - Reducing Existing Risks

Following the prevention of new risks, the next important quality is a reduction of the existing risks in the country. Development of new norms and standards, strict implementation of policies and requirements shall be in the focus of the new strategic document, alongside with the engagement of key stakeholders.

1.12.8 - Strengthening Economic, Social, Health and Environmental Resilience

The ultimate goal of the future strategy on DRM shall be ensuring building resilience in economic, social, health and environmental dimensions, thus contributing to the process of sustainable development. The sector objectives shall be clearly outlined in the goals and objectives of the strategic document and incorporated in the relevant indicators to measure the effectiveness of the implementation of the strategy.

1.12.9 - Clear and Realistic Action Plan – with Timeframes, Targets, Indicators and Resources.

The future DRM Strategy shall have an actionable plan of activities with clear timeframes, target and indicators to measure the achievements. It is also important to provide a very clear indication of the resources to be used for the implementation of the Strategy Action Plan.

1.12.10 - A mechanism to follow-up, assess the progress, report

This is the key feature of an effective and agile strategy. It is important to establish in the strategic document the clear mechanisms and processes for assessing the environment and introducing the changes as necessary. The more specific details on the "process approach" to DRM Strategy will be outlined in the specific Terms of Reference for the development of the National DRM Strategy.

A national workshop with representatives of the inter-ministerial working group on DRR, line ministries and other stakeholders from non-government institutions and academia gathered 55 representatives was organized in 11 November 2020 in Tirana to discuss the findings of the Stakeholder Assessment, Capacity Assessment in DRR, National Platform on DRR and the TORs of the National Strategy on DRR. The feedback received from stakeholders and the specific sessions of consultation and exchange prior on the 10 November 2020 with the National Agency on Civil Protection contributed to further refine the documents and assessments.




1.12.11 - Other activities

A logo competition for the National Agency of Civil Protection

The competition for the new Logo of the National Agency of Civil Protection was organized in the month of December. It was announced in UNDP and National Agency of Civil Protection social media channels through a boosting platform targeting young designers from 25-40 years for 10 days. A total of 17 applications were received.

The ceremony of announcing the wining logo was organized on 30 December 2020 and the following was the winning logo was designed by Erblin Gordeni

VARIANTI Nr. 3 per stemën e AKMC

Logo me permasat "REALE"
30 mm x 30 mm

Logo me permasat "JO-REALE"

1.13 - Results

- Establishment of the inter-ministerial technical working group on DRR and capacity assessment process as per SENDAI requirements
- Finalization of the stakeholder analysis and engagement plan as per their role in the DRR process at different level developed
- Finalization of the Albania Capacity Assessment in Disaster Risk Management as per SENDAI requirements
- Exchanges in process for the establishment of multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms for disaster risk reduction, including National Platform for DRR, highlighting the relevance, added value and cost-benefit of a coordinated and consistent approach to DRR at the national level.
- Strategic documents and policies on DRR at different levels reviewed DRR Strategy Terms of Reference prepared
- Trainings and consultations on Capacity Assessment and SENDAI tools application in process

1.14 - Conclusions

The preliminary findings of the Stakeholder Analysis and application of System Thinking Method for the Disaster Risk Management System in Albania identified a large group of state and non-state actors who are involved at the different stages of the DRM system. The current developments and new challenges imposed by the spread of COVID-19 coronavirus require to critically analyse the vision and purpose of the DRM system in the country, to expand the potential scope of its function and adapt to changing realities.

In this process, the effective engagement and participation of all key stakeholders is important. Even though the analysis identified somehow low interest of some important stakeholders in the DRM capacity building processes, it is important to consider appropriate measures to engage them in the process and to increase their interest and ownership.

1.15 - Next steps

1. Produce the DRM Albania System Capacity Assessment Report for further use by all interested parties;
2. Endorsement of the DRR National Platform concept, objectives, structure, main functions, management modality and mechanisms
3. Endorsement of the Terms of Reference of the National DRR Strategy and launching of the process;
4. Support the capacity building of the National Emergency Agency on Sendai framework for DRR and strengthening of reporting capacities at national level.

2 – LOCAL LEVEL PILOT: Municipal DRR Framework in Lezha Municipality

2.1 - Rationale, Approach and Process

2.1.1 - Rationale

The new legal framework, started with the adoption of the Law 45/2019 "On Civil Protection", on 18/07/2019, stipulates that local government authorities should their respective disaster risk assessment, local strategy for disaster risk reduction and local civil emergency plans. The legal basis is still new and untested in its implementation in Albania. As a result, the Lezha pilot helps to establish an institutional methodology and procedures in meeting the requirements.

Disaster Risk Reduction and increased communities' resilience has become a global priority. In this regard, local authorities are expected to play an important role as they are the ones who deal directly with the community and disasters.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, adopted at the Third UN World Conference in Sendai, Japan, on March 18, 2015, articulates the need to better understand disaster risk in all dimensions, such as exposure, sensitivity and risk characteristics. It also advocates for strengthening governance and increasing management responsibilities and the willingness to "Build better" after a disaster.

The Sendai Framework proposes some basic principles on which DRR policies and strategies are developed, among which some worth to mention, include:

- Reducing disaster risks requires a commitment and partnership of the whole society. It calls for inclusive, accessible and non-discriminatory empowerment and participation, paying particular attention to people disproportionately affected by disasters, especially the poorest. A gender, age, disability and cultural perspective should be integrated into all policies and practices where women and youth leadership should be promoted. In this context, special attention should be paid to improving the organized voluntary work of citizens

- Disaster risk reduction and management ... requires the full commitment of all state institutions at the national and local levels and a clear articulation of the responsibilities of the public and private actors, including business and academia, to ensure mutual communication, partnership, role fulfillment and accountability;

- The development, strengthening and implementation of relevant policies, plans, practices and mechanisms should aim to create coherence between sustainable development, food security, health and safety care, climate change, environmental management and disaster risks. Reducing disaster risks is essential for achieving sustainable development;

- While the main risk factors for disasters can be local, national, regional or global, disaster risks have local and specific characteristics that need to be understood in determining measures to reduce the risks.

In Albania, the experience of disaster management over the years has pointed out major shortcomings at the local level, where municipalities have had significant challenges with regard to the general capacity needed to manage disasters (REC Albania, 2018). There is a general lack of knowledge of the policies of Disaster Risk Reduction at the local level, resulting in uninformed preparedness from the viewpoint of the risk of disasters.

One of the basic principles of law 139/2015 "On local self-governance" is' Subsidiarity ', which is 'the principle of performing functions and exercising competencies at a government level as close as possible to the community, given the importance and nature of the task, as well as economic efficiency requirements' (Kuvendi i Republikës së Shqiperisë, 2015). In this context, based on article 29, the Municipality, as a local authority, has direct competencies in the field of civil protection, which are subsequently granted by the sectoral legislation.

Law 45/2019 "On Civil Protection" aims to reduce the risk of disasters and the implementation of civil protection, to guarantee the protection of human life, property, livestock, cultural heritage and the environment, through the strengthening of the civil protection system (Kuvendi i Republikës së Shqipërisë, 2019). The Law states that the mission of civil protection is to create the conditions for a society capable of coping with various disasters and thereafter being able to recover, through the establishment of an integrated and efficient civil protection system in the Republic of Albania. This Law has introduced several innovations in the field of civil protection in Albania, both from the institutional point of view and from the instruments used to achieve the goals. It requires three main instruments to be used at both national and local level, namely: a disaster risk and vulnerability assessment document, a disaster risk reduction strategy, and a civil emergency plan.

In consideration of the above, UNDP partnered with Co-PLAN for piloting at municipal level a comprehensive assistance with a two-fold scope: 1) support in the selected pilot municipality the development of the local DRR documents and build local capacities along the process, and 2) develop guidelines for replication of the pilot experience in other municipalities. Lezha was selected as a pilot municipality for several reasons:

Although the earthquake of November 2019 did not impact Lezha at the same level as the municipalities of Durrës and Tirana, the municipality faces a variety of hazards, and consequently risks of natural disasters, which mainly come because of its geographical position (Bashkia Lezhe, UTS-01, 2016). Lezha is endangered by the floods of the rivers Drin and Mat and at the same time by sea floods. Also, the acceleration of the impacts of climate change, manifested by an increase in sea level and change of precipitation regime, increases the probability of natural disasters in the future in the form of floods (UNDP, 2016). Other risks, ranging from landslides, falling rocks, to fires or snow blockages, although minor in the damage they cause, are always present in the territory of the municipality, The occurrence of earthquakes is not excluded and represents another major risk.

Looking at the variety of risks faced by the municipality of Lezha, the pilot project aims to test the methodology in different risk conditions. In addition, the project will serve the municipality of Lezha to further improve the legal measures and requirements in Civil Protection and at the same time develop a methodological and practical model for other municipalities. Hence, the main aim of the local pilot project

is to support the municipality of Lezhe to increase capacities in Disaster Risk Reduction. In achieving the aim, the objectives of the project are to increase local institutional capacities in DRR, raise community awareness on risk, develop instruments of DRR based on legal requirements (assessment, strategy, plan) and develop a guideline for replication of the pilot in other municipalities.

2.1.2 - Approach

The processes of identification and assessment of risks as well as the drafting of framework documents, the local DRR Strategy and Civil Emergency Plan, are designed through open, transparent and comprehensive processes, with a broad institutional and community participation, in order to build local institutional and community capacities in disaster risk reduction.

From a methodological point of view, the pilot intervention has applied a comprehensive and integrated approach. Participatory planning has enabled a) the identification of specific problems in the territory in a situation of lack of annual data and b) has had the dual purpose of training the community and other institutional instances through involvement in the project.

The pilot intervention was focused on institutional cooperation and participation of various community groups, in order to institutionalize the culture of disaster risk reduction and local capacity building. The following main instruments were used throughout:

a) Visits and direct field observations;
b) Semi-structured interviews with stakeholders (citizens, experts, businesses, etc.);
c) Participatory risk mapping;
ç) Thematic focus groups (depending on the type of risk, risk and sector);
d) Participatory compilation of seasonal and historical risk calendars;
e) Risk assessment in the GIS platform, as per the following 5 criteria:

- physical impact (impact on buildings, built environment, socio-economic structures; infrastructure, etc.)
- social impact (analysis of social vulnerability to risk for specific risks)
- economic impact (the impact a certain natural / biological disaster may have on structures that carry out economic activities in Lezha)
- environmental impact (the impact a given disaster may have on environmental areas, protected areas, natural monuments, waterfronts, water bodies, and any other environmental elements)
- cultural impact (impact on cultural and historical heritage)

Field visits and semi-structured interviews were an essential tool to gather data and engage the community in the preparation of the DRR framework preliminary and final documents. The information gathered has been combined with existing technical documentation and updated with several sectoral technical studies.
The use of GIS has proven highly beneficial as it offers great potentials for the municipality to have a macro- view of the problems and monitor the situation through periodical updates of the database.

The DRR Strategy of Lezha municipality was based on the preceding risk assessment analysis. The vision of the DRR Strategy for the municipality of Lezha was drafted in cooperation with the Civil Protection

Commission in the municipality, and in consultation with various stakeholders. This vision, although long-term, aims to improve and guide DRR policies as well as other sectoral policies. Stemming from the vision, a number of objectives have been identified and drafted through participatory processes along with respective series of measures, the latter being prioritized through different scenarios.

For the development of the Civil Emergency Plan, all existing documents and experiences from experts and other stakeholders were used. The Plan was also based on the findings and is in coherence with the disaster risk assessment document and the local DRR strategy.

It is important to emphasize that in drafting the Civil Emergency Plan, the civil emergency plan and crisis management of Lezha municipality for 2018, the civil emergency plan of Lezha Region updated in 2018 and other plans, reports and documents were taken into consideration.

The current Civil Emergency Plan has also taken into account the capabilities of civil protection, new findings of experts, as well as experiences gained in disaster management. The structure responsible for evaluating and reviewing the Civil Emergency Plan in the municipality will be the Civil Protection Commission. At present, the initial structure of the municipality that will have this task in the description of its work will be the Directorate of Civil Emergencies which also serves as the Technical Secretariat of Civil Protection Commission. The coordinator for the evaluation and review of the Civil Emergency Plan will be the Director of the Civil Emergency Directorate in the municipality.

2.1.3 - Process

The pilot kickoff started by meeting with the Mayor and a representative of the Prefect in early 2020. Two meetings, on January 28th and February 5th were conducted in order to define the scope of the pilot project with the municipal leadership and the technical staff.

Assistance followed with supporting the establishment and regulatory documentation for the Municipal Civil Protection Commission (CPC). The establishment of Municipal CPC is an obligation stemming from law 45/2019, dated 18.07.2019 "On civil protection". Municipal CPC is the continuation of the Municipal Local Commission of Civil Emergencies (CE) which has been a legal obligation pursuant to law 8756, dated 26.03.2001, amended. On February 13th, 2020 a workshop with Municipality CPC was held in Lezha, which was attended by representatives of territorial branches in the region of Lezha.

Establishment of the Civil Commission Protection

On March 11th, 2020 the draft Order "On the establishment of the Civil Protection Commission" and the Regulation were sent to Lezha municipality.

A preliminary analysis for the identification of all state and non-state actors in the territory of Lezha municipality was conducted from the initial stage of project implementation where the principle of the Sendai Framework was taken into account that the issue of DRR is an “all of state” and “all of society” issue.

In this analysis, the definitions of the National Civil Emergency Plan (NCEP) were considered, as well as other factors and actors with competencies but also local impacts that appeared after the publication of NCEP.

After identifying all state and non-state actors, the preparation of relevant and dedicated questionnaires was conducted for each of them. Some of the most common questions were about:

- Structure, duties and responsibilities, engagement in emergency management in general, as well as specifically in the case of the November 26 earthquake, and Covid 19;
- Cooperation with the Prefect, the municipality of Lezha, the territorial branches in the region and other local and central institutions in the framework of emergency management;
- Plans or other documents of the institution related to DRR and CP;
- Information regarding the sufficiency of the administrative, technical and financial capacities of the institution for DRR and CP, as well as on the needs in the framework of capacity improvement. This information was requested in detail, in the form of inventory.
- Problems identified by the institution in DRR and CP and the respective proposals.

All municipal administrative units have been met at the beginning of the process. Such meetings started with the Administrative Units Shënkoll and Zejmen, in the period 20.02.2020-5.03.2020. Due to the quarantine period, these meetings were interrupted and resumed between April – May 2020.

A few days prior to each meeting, a questionnaire and a project summary, was sent to the stakeholders in order to familiarize and prepare them for the meeting. After each meeting, minutes were prepared, shared and agreed among the project staff participants. 20 field visits were conducted in total in the Administrative Units, including meetings with local administrative unit staff, inhabitants and other stakeholders, drone oversight and visits with experts.

The expert teams have conducted 15 meetings and consultations with municipal structures and 39 meetings with various regional level entities or branches, NGOs, clergy, private experts, private entities, etc.), as listed below:

	Meetings with Municipal structures		
1	Civil Emergency Directorate	9	Directorate of Finance and Budget
2	Directorate of Territorial Planning and Urban Development	10	Directorate of Education and Youth
3	Directorate of Agriculture, Forest Management Unit	11	Directorate of Tourism and Culture
4	Directorate of Human Resources and Support Services	12	Public Services Directorate
5	Social Services Directorate	13	Directorate of Agriculture, Agriculture, Water, Drainage and Specific Transport Unit
6	Municipal Police	14	Fire Protection and Rescue Directorate
7	Directorate of European Integration, Communication and Transparency	15	Fire Protection and Rescue station in Lezha
8	Local Inspectorate of Territorial Protection		
	Meetings with various local entities		
1	Local Health Care Unit	21	Muslim Clergy
2	State Health Inspectorate Lezha Regional Branch	22	Gjovalin Gjeloshi; Researcher, scientist
3	Environmental Regional Agency	23	NGO representative, Geg Ndoka
4	Regional Directorate of the National Food Authority	24	State Inspectorate of Environment, Forests, Water and Tourism
5	Lezha Agricultural Extension Sector	25	Naval Military Base, Shengjin
6	Lezha Branch of OSSHE Directorate of Shkodra	26	Private company MILIS Ltd., Lezha, (with activity of production of ceramic bricks)
7	Irrigation and Drainage Directorate of Lezha	27	Drin-Buna Basin Administration Office
8	Lezha Regional Tax Directorate	28	Lezha Regional Hospital
9	Shengjin Customs Service, Lezha Customs Branch	29	Middle school "Beslidhja"
10	Albanian Geological Survey	30	"Kolin Gjoka" High School
11	Administration of Protected Areas, Lezha Region	31	Lezha Veterinary Service and Plant Protection Sector
12	Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture Service	32	Lezha Mobilization Office
13	National Coast Agency for Lezha Region	33	Military Air Base Gjadër
14	Shkodra Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage	34	Zef Gjoka, Chemist, former Director of Shengjin Port
15	Lezha Police Station	35	Lezha Regional Council
16	Albanian Red Cross, Lezha Branch	36	Prefecture, Civil Emergency and Crisis Planning and Response Sector
17	Caritas Lezhë	37	Shengjin Port Captaincy
18	World Vision	38	"Lezha" local TV
19	Local Office of Pre-University Education (ZVAP)	39	Water Supply and Sewerage Lezha
20	Regional Directorate of the Albanian Road Authority, Directorate of the Northern Region Shkodra		

In total, about 450 people participated in about 75 meetings with local and qark stakeholders. 130 participants attended the 8 trainings and workshops, organized during project implementation. The total number of participants in all meetings and events combined were about 580. However, it is to be highlighted the fact that the number would be much higher if it would not been affected by the restrictions on movement and on the participants' limits that were imposed due to the pandemic

2.1.4 - Collaboration with NACP

All activities were carried out through an open, transparent, participatory and comprehensive process with all governmental and non-governmental actors, local, qark level, the civil emergency office at the Prefect Institution but above all the NCPA. The inclusion of NCPA in the project implementation is certainly

an added value both in terms of the most qualified institutional expertise in the country but also in terms of ensuring their support for the replication of the project in other municipalities of the country. Specific events attended by NCPA staff were:

- Online training of Lezha municipality Civil Protection Commission on Local DRR strategy and its Action Plan integration into the development municipality plans". October 14th 2020
- Informative meeting in the National Civil Protection Agency on October 23rd 2020.
- Online training of Lezha municipality Civil Protection Commission "Discussion on the civil emergency plan scenarios improving them based on the identified gaps in the Municipality of Lezha. DRR Local strategy and its Action Plan integration into the municipality development plans". November 24th, 2020.

2.2 - Results

By end 2020, the Lezha pilot was able to support the development of the three documents, namely the Disaster Risk Assessment, the Local DRR Strategy and Local Civil Emergency Plan, as a fulfillment of municipality's main obligations regarding non-structural measures, stipulated in the law 45/2019. Moreover, these three documents are built on a local Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) which was implemented according to an advanced methodology based on the VCA packages of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. (IFRC), as well as VCA methodologies used by other international organizations such as OXFAM, CARE and others.

The three documents are finalized and are undergoing a final layout and design before being made available for public use.

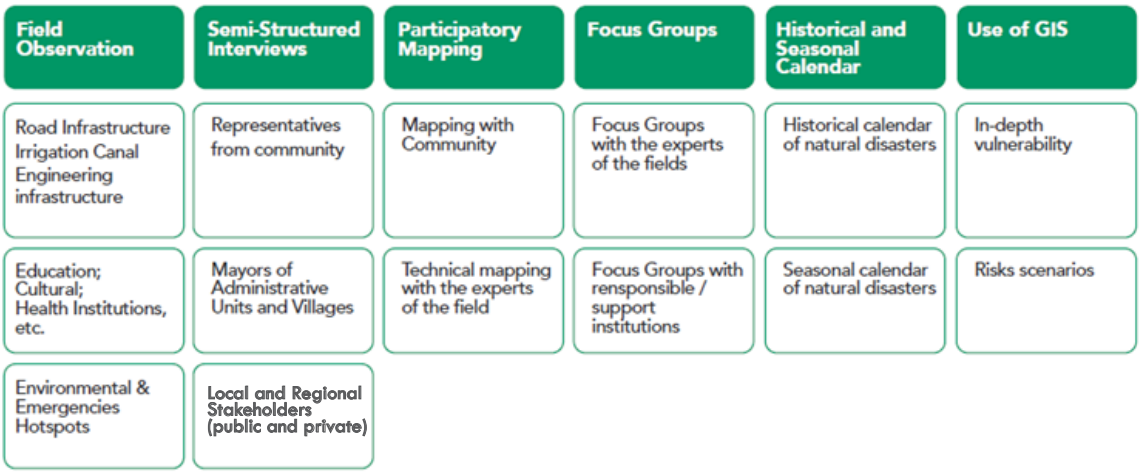
2.2.1 - Lezha Disaster Risk Assessment

The Disaster Risk Assessment is the first and fundamental document and information upon which the local strategy and plan can be developed. It requires the collection and compilation of all possible information in an accurate and detailed form from historical data, community experiences and scientific and technical studies.

The Disaster Risk Assessment was drafted through an open, transparent and comprehensive process, with a broad institutional and community participation. It made use of various instruments, including filed visits and observations; semi-structured interviews with stakeholders, ç) thematic focus groups; participatory risk mapping; compilation of seasonal and historical risk calendars; usage of the GIS platform, and the development of various sectoral technical studies.

Several risks were analyzed with regard to frequency, magnitude, impact and territorial extension and served for developing the integrated risk map of Lezha municipality, as an overlay of various risks.

Methodology



The methodology has been drafted in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the scientific and practical knowledge of the respective platform of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Considering the challenges in that Albania faces in terms of DRR or the application of the concept of resilience, where on the one hand we have a new law and on the other hand there is a lack of experience (Toto, 2020) and culture at the local level in terms of DRR, the project implementation methodology becomes a very important instrument not only for the preparation of instruments but also for the training of municipal staff.

The availability of data, databases and their regular update, remains a challenge. An important source is the existing General Local Plans, as during the process of their development, there was a good commitment to unify and create some initial databases and such document, besides a detailed analysis of the territory includes also a comprehensive dataset available also in GIS format. Nevertheless, their regular update and combination with the analysis of secondary available data are still daunting tasks.

Below there is a brief description of the use of different elements of the methodology:

A - Direct observations through field visits

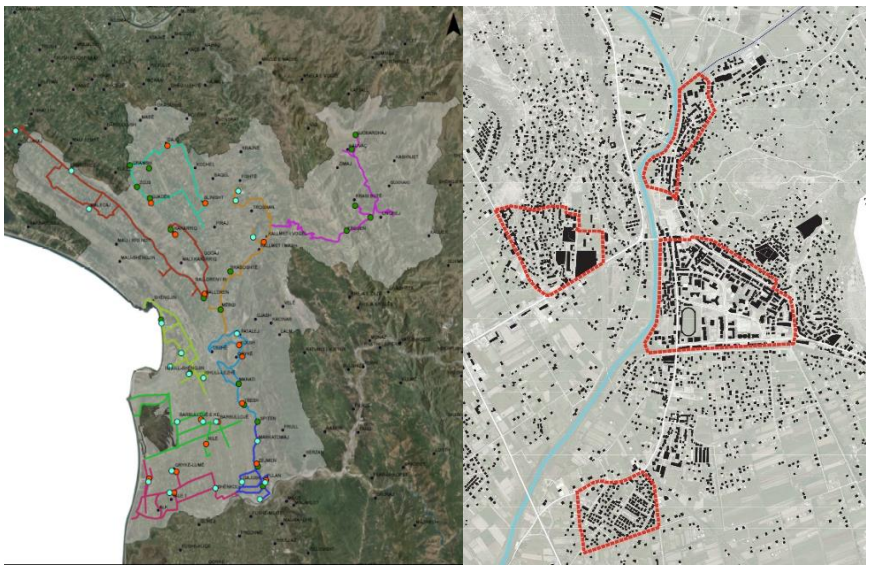
Field visits were conducted in cooperation with representatives of the municipality and in some cases with representatives of the Civil Protection sector at the Prefecture level. Their focus was to identify field problems and scan the current situation. Three main types of field visits were conducted:

1. Integrated - Visits covering almost the entire territory of an administrative unit, in terms of critical infrastructure
2. Related to specific hazards - Dedicated visits for specific hazards, such as floods, landslides and rock falls, strong winds, fires, etc. These visits were in some cases integrated with the former, but require a specific technical expert, e.g. Hydro technician, geologist, construction expert, seismic expert, etc.

3. In urban areas - Visits that include the city and the main urban centres of the municipality, and identify in an integrated way the problems and risks related to critical infrastructure, buildings, etc.

Prior to field visits, maps with the itinerary, details of critical infrastructure and other issues of interest were prepared. A sample of maps prepared before each field visit can be seen in the below figure:

Example of Maps used for field-visits – municipality and city level



Another important aspect of field observation was cataloguing important issues through photos. These photos were used for cataloguing, in case of urban observations based on 'modules', or for identification of critical points / infrastructure. Depending on the specifics of the territory and the danger, aerial photography was used from above. One of the ways to assess the quality and the maintenance of irrigation channels was done through Drone video and photos:

Cataloguing through photographs

Source: UNDP, Co-PLAN

Further, the site visits with dedicated engineers, i.e. geology, geotechnical engineer, seismic engineer and civil engineer, were also associated with separate reports. A dedicated report has been prepared on the geological and geotechnical conditions in Lezhe, on the seismic conditions (including a map of classification of soils and PGA), as well as a detailed report on the risks of different typologies of structures in the municipality of Lezha.

Table - Classification of Structural system typology. Case of Lezha

Nr	Structural System Typology	Photos
1.	***Existing unreinforced masonry structures*** • "Beselidhja" area • "Grumbullimi" area Between Kosova Street and Gjergj Fishta Boulevard Along "Nene Tereza" boulevard in Shengjin	
2.	***Existing reinforced masonry structures with anti-seismic columns and belts*** • "Beselidhja" area • "Grumbullimi" area Between Kosova Street and GjergjFishta Boulevard Along "Nene Tereza" boulevard in Shengjin	 
3.	***Prefabricated buildings*** • Along Frang Bardhi Street	
4.	***Reinforced concrete building systems:*** • *Frame* • *Wall* • *Dual* • *Inverted pendulum* "Beselidhja" Area along the Franz Jozef Strauss street Between "Qender Plazh" and "Shengjin Qender"	

Beside the above, especially for critical infrastructure, a catalogue was used. This was crucial for gathering data that was later transferred to GIS

Example of cataloguing during field visit

Infrastructure	
Critical civic infrastructure	Type of building, condition, capacity, access
Primary and secondary roads	Accessibility / accessibility for rescuing machines / condition
Sewage	Condition / length / coverage
Waste management system	Availability / type / problems / coverage
Education / Healthcare / Public Services	
Educational institution	Type of building / age of building / type of entrance or exit / number of pupils and teachers
Healthcare center / hospital	Type of building / capacity / availability of beds / availability of staff / specialization / emergency exits
Public building	Type of building / age of building / type of entrance or exit / accessibility / location / capacity
Transport / energy / water supply / communication system / police / fire station etc.	Availability / operation / technical capacity / human capacity / logistic
Recreational space / Sport / Greenery / Bars-Restaurants / Hotels	
Bars and Coffee Shops	Opened or closed, type of entrance, type of exit, capacity
Sport fields / Stadiums	Public or private/ /condition / functionality / can be used or not in emergency situations
Gas station	Availability of fire protection devices / security measures / respected buffer
Hotels / Accommodation facilities	Exits / emergency plan / distance from surrounding buildings
Public greenery / Plaza	Soil permeability / accessibility / size /
Natural environment	
Forests	Area / location / type / last investment / management unit
Pastures	Area / location / type
Mix use open surface	Area / location / type 1 / type 2…

B - Semi-structured interviews with stakeholders (citizens, experts, businesses, etc.)

Semi-structured interviews were used as a form of interview with a certain focus, where there is a preconception about the expected outcome, but the questions fit depending on the fluency of the argument. This method is a good alternative to the questionnaire, which is a tool that requires a lot of time and energy to compile and process the data. Some interviews were conducted simultaneously with field visits, as they support each other. Three types of semi-structured interviews were conducted for the project in about 170 interviews:

1. Interview with the community, individually or in groups, to identify the level of information on risks / as well as their preparation and level of adaptation. Interviews were also part of participatory mapping and address specific flood / earthquake / wind-snow-snow-fire challenges.

As part of the interviews with the community, maps were used to draw the exposure of events, historic events and their perception of risk.

On average, 4-8 interviews have been conducted with each of the Head of villages for each Administrative Unit;
4-6 interviews have been conducted with representatives of communities, as identified by Head of villages in each administrative unit;

2. Interviews with specialists of public institutions to identify the problem in a more general context; as well as to discuss political and strategic proposals at local, regional and national level on the issue. These interviews contain information on the technical and operational capacities of each institution, in case of emergencies. There were in total 55 interviews conducted, from which, 9 with Heads of Administrative Units, 30 meetings with Governmental institutions in Qark and 16 with Municipality structures.

3. Nine interviews were conducted with other non-Governmental stakeholders such as clergy, private businesses, local TV, NGO-s and local researchers/scientists.

A dedicated questionnaire format has been used for each of the interviews. Interviews with the community were addressed to key people, such as village mayors, and through them, other families identified as having suffered or are at risk of natural disasters.

Below, one of the forms for the semi-structured interviews as an example:

Example: semi-structural interview with community representatives about flood risk

General	Age Group / Working status/ Working Sector
History of natural disasters	Period of the last flood in the area Material damage on a household and settlement level Period of repetition of floods in the area. Main causes of flooding in the area
Awareness and readiness	Participation in trainings on flood risk management? Can flood be prevented? What measures can be taken for flood prevention? What kind of support have you received for flood damage? From which institution / individual? Disseminating experience or knowledge to other people
Disaster Adaptation	Are you aware of nearest shelter areas in case of floods? Do you know which institutions or which persons to contact in case of floods? Are you aware of the level of risk of flooding in your area? Are you aware for emergency evacuation routes in case of floods?
Disaster Awareness	Do you know what measures to take in your property to improve flood preparedness? Have you saved emergency funds for future floods? How much time / moneys do you need/ think you need for post-flood recovery?
Disaster Risk Perception	Do you think that large scale floods can happen in the next 10 years? Do you think there are other risks in your area aside from flooding? Do you feel safe in your neighborhood / settlement?

C - Participatory risk mapping

Participatory Risk Mapping is a tool used to identify the position of hazards and harms, resources / strengths and weaknesses of the community. Mapping in the DRR sector has been accepted as a means of visualizing risk positions, whether visible or invisible. Participatory mapping was done in two ways: Technical mapping, and community mapping. The technical mapping was performed by the working team with different experts, for example hydrology, urban planning, agriculture etc. Although mapping is a time-consuming process, it is an effective and simple tool that provides a reasonable opportunity for communities to compare their strengths / weaknesses and hazards / risks. Participatory mapping is an ancillary mapping process, where the community identifies the location and boundaries of past hazards on the base map or on existing thematic maps. The process requires work to familiarize the community with the basic mapping and mapping principles, however, it was quite essential considering the absence of data. All the maps prepared with the community and technical experts were afterwards translated in GIS.

D - Thematic focus groups (depending on the type of hazard, risk and sector)

Focus groups were organized with the selected group of community individuals with specific specialization (administrative staff, medical staff, teachers, farmers, women, etc.). Focus group discussions provide participants with understanding and knowledge of the problems of everyday community life. As a rule, they are suitable for obtaining specific information directed / driven by the specific interests of each group. Discussions also reveal the level of vulnerability of each group. The conducted focus groups were very important as they finally describe the vulnerability and risks of the community, the image of the sectors (education, health, agriculture, environment, water supply and sewerage, etc.) and jointly discuss possible solutions to problems that were vital to the community. Due to the spread of the pandemic, and the limitations in use of technology by the municipality and the community, a limited number of focus groups was conducted with key experts. These focus groups allowed to validate the data gathered with the risk mapping, direct visits and semi-structured interviews.

E - Participatory design of seasonal and historical risk calendars

Seasonal Calendar

A seasonal calendar is a graph that helps to explore the challenges faced by a community over a period of one year. It can be used to indicate dangerous disasters / phenomena, impacts of climate change, social and economic changes, periods of disease outbreaks, etc. The Emergency Sectors for which this calendar was drafted were floods, wind, snow, fire, earthquake etc. Seasonal calendars were completed with community residents and technical experts from institutions. Seasonal calendar data were very valuable for later comparison with statistical data as well as with risk assessment data that a team collects while working with a community. Below an example of the seasonal calendar for Lezha:

Seasonal Calendar

SEASONAL EVENTS	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Adm Units/affected areas
Natural Risks													
Earthquake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Administrative Unit with land at risk of liquefaction: Shengjin, Shënkoll
Flooding from problems with drainage channels, heavy rainfall technical issues	x	x							x		x	x	Mabë, Zojz, Gocaj, Torovica, Ishull-Shengjin, Barbullojë, Lalm i Ri, Tresh, Zejmën
Flooding from sea	x											x	Kune Vain, Shëngjin, Tale
Snowstorm	x	x										x	Administrative unit Ungrej, Kolsh, Molung mountain area, Rrenc mountain
Storm / strong winds				x					x				Shënkoll, Balldren
Wildfires	18	14	20	10	10	16	31	43	28	26	12	14	Lezhë, Ishull Lezhë; Manati; Dajc, Ungrej, Barbulloje, Gjadër, Shëngjin, Balldren, Kolsh, Zejmen, etc
Rock falling									x	x	x		Lezhë – Shëngjin – Rana hedhun Aksi Torovicë –Lezhë Lagjia Gurrat e Begut, Lezhë Manati-Tresh – Spiten Aksi Milot – Rrëshen
Landslides			x						x	x	x	x	Fishtë – Troshan
Draught							x	X					The whole municipality
Heavy rains									x	x	x		The whole municipality
Economic/Social Sectors													
Agriculture - Harvesting period						x	x						
Agriculture - Sowing period			x	x	x								
Tourism -activity high flux						x	x	x					Shëngjin
School period	x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x	x	The whole Municipality
Health Care													
COVID-19 Pandemics	0	0	1	14	52	79	83	177	274	273	638	?	The whole Municipality

Historical Calendar

The historical calendar builds over decades the historical profile of past events that influence community development and hazards. The Emergency Sectors for which this calendar was compiled are floods, wind, snow, fire, as well as earthquakes. Through the historical calendar, it was created an overview of past events and it allowed to draw conclusions that influence the planning processes of community-based risk reduction programs. Each type of risk has a dedicated structure of this calendar.

Flood Historical Calendar

Timeframe	Area / Affected Adm.Unit	Affected Population	Impact on Buildings	Agricultural Land (ha)	Impact on Infrastructure	Comments
November 1992	No info	No info	No info	840	Breaking of the Mat and Drin river embankment	Referring to the General Local Plan
August 1995	Ishull Shëngjin	No info	No info	700	Shëngjin Pumping Station not functioning	Referring to the General Local Plan
September 1996	No info	No info	No info	800	Heavy rainfall	Referring to the General Local Plan
October 1996	No info	No info	No info	700	Heavy rainfall and non-functioning pumping station	Referring to the General Local Plan
February 1998	No info	No info	No info	500	High waters channel breaking	Referring to the General Local Plan
December 2000	Ishull Shëngjin	No info	No info	300	Breaking of Shengjin Island sea mbankment	Referring to the General Local Plan
February 2002	Ishull Shëngjin	No info	No info	400	Breaking of Shengjin Island Seawall	Referring to the General Local Plan
22-25 September 2002	Ishull Lezhë, Ishull Shëngjin, Kakarriq	9300 families	160	15000	Damage to the high-water embankment in Zejmen	Impact on floods in Trashan, Fishta, Grykë Manati
26-29 February 2004	Lezhë, Kolsh, Balldren, Shënkoll, Zejmen, Dajc, Ungrej	About 1500	386	3650	Damage to Plana dam, collapse of irrigation walls in Ungrej, damage to 15 bridges in Ungrej, Mat embankment, erosion of Kolsh dam, blockage of canals in Lezha	Accompanied by landslides in Ungrej and Torovicë
January 2007				1200		
10 November 2009	Barbullojë, Adm.Unit Kolsh		Several	2300	Fallen pine trees in Kune, power outages	Rainfall for 1 week, there was a defect in the Tale pumping station
December-January 2010	Tale, Ishull Shëngjin	?	60	8600	HV Tale embankment damage. Damage to the electrical sub-station. Tree damage, salinization of plants and agricultural land	Sea tide 1,8 m
January 2012	Lezhe city			950	Heavy rain in Lezha	Referring to the General Local Plan
January 2013	Lezhe city			700	Heavy rain in Lezha	Referring to the General Local Plan

Timeframe	Area / Affected Adm.Unit	Affected Population	Impact on Buildings	Agricultural Land (ha)	Impact on Infrastructure	Comments
September 2013	Lezhe, Shëngjin, Kolsh			850	Heavy rain in Lezha, Shengjin and Kolsh	Referring to the General Local Plan
18 November 2014	Lezhe city	?	31	-	Damage to furniture, equipment, etc.	Referring to the General Local Plan
6-7 January 2016	Shënkoll, Zejmen, Balldren, Blinisht, Dajc, Lezha city	Risk for 25000 inhabitants	7 About 500 houses	1500	Surface water for several days, furniture damage, urban infrastructure, bridges, electric poles, sewage.	Reporting to CE sector in Prefecture, riverbanks overflooded in Zejmen, Pllanë

Wildfire Calendar

Timeframe	Area / Adm Unit	Affected forestry	Affected agricultural land	Impact on infrastructure	Other
17 November 2006	Taci Oil, Shëngjin	**xxx**	Wetland area pollution	Spread 480 m southwest and 120 m wide	Explosion 3 tanks benzene, diesel
2010	Vela mountain, Gjash, NJA Kolsh	**x**	**-**	**-**	Timely evacuation of the entire population
Summer 2016	Shëngjini Mountain	**xx**	**xx**	**-**	Burning forests, meadows, pastures
Summer 2017	Bërzanë, Adm. Unit Zejmen; Torovicë, Malecaj, Kakarriq, Adm. Unit Balldren	**xx**	**-**	**-**	
June 2018	Kolsh	**x**	**-**	**-**	Pine forest and shrubs
July 2018	Kodër Marlekaj	**x**	**-**	**-**	Pine forest and shrubs
November 2018	Nënë Tereza neighborhood, Lezhë	**0.3 ha**	**-**	**-**	
Shkurt 2019	Gocaj, Balldren; Torovicë; Shëngjin Mountain	**4.2 ha**	**-**	**-**	Shrub forests
August 2019	Pllanë, Shëngjin	**xx**	**-**	**-**	5 cases of wildfire

Timeframe	Area / Adm Unit	Affected forestry	Affected agricultural land	Impact on infrastructure	Other
16 September 2020	Manati	5 ha	-	-	Close to the village, but isolated in time

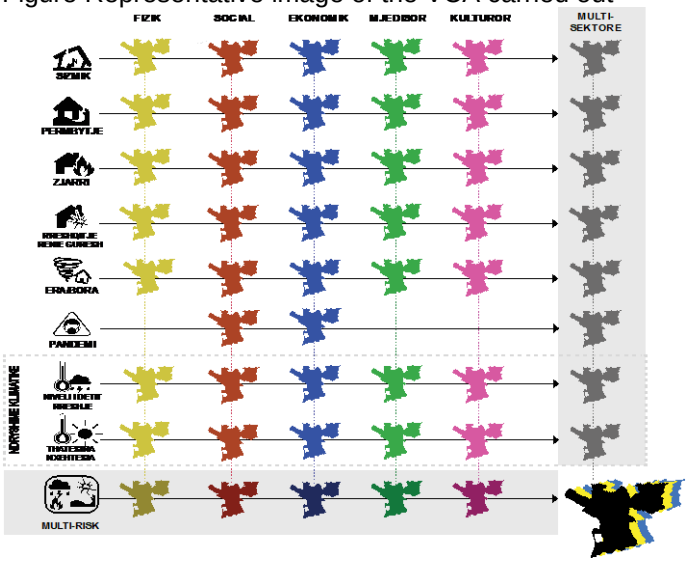
Risk assessment using the GIS platform.

The GIS-based vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) and the GIS-based risk assessment are designed as an extension of the SENDAI framework, UNDRR methodologies, and others alike. Moreover, all territorial data was displayed in the GIS system, serving multiple purposes:

- Allowing for systemic update of data on hazard and other elements, and being able to observe periodically the changes in territory
- Supporting the municipality and other regional and local institutions in digitalizing existing hardcopy materials that were in degraded conditions
- Drafting participatory maps, based on local experts' knowledge, or communities.
- Having appropriate visual tools and techniques to evaluate hazards exposure and risk mitigation
- Being able to conduct overlay, multi-layer analysis and correlations between the different information layers, and link them to the territory

The methodology used for the evaluation of vulnerabilities towards risk reduction considers is based on a multi-sectoral and multi-hazard approach. It addresses all 8 hazards separately, analyzing their impact in 5 main territorial aspects: physical, social, economic, environmental and cultural impact. The working team is contemplating adding a 6th dimension to this analysis, focusing only on 'critical infrastructure', that is crosscutting to the previous ones.

Figure Representative image of the VCA carried out



Physical vulnerability: highlights all buildings, critical infrastructure, administrative, health and educational facilities, as well as road infrastructure (when applicable) that is exposed to the hazard. Different hazards may have slight adaptations in the physical impact, but overall, the structure is systemic and replicable.

Social impact: analysis of social vulnerability to risk from a certain risk: 4 main indicators are highlighted per administrative unit: % of elderly who live alone; % of population aged +65; % of persons with disabilities; % of families receiving social aid. The data is based

on the Census 2011 database and is limited due to the lack of social information at administrative unit level. This data is combined with the population at risk per administrative unit, and a social vulnerability ranking is done for each hazard. Due to the lack of available data, all hazards are analyzed using the same indicators, except for the pandemic hazard, which is based on 8 indicators.

Economic impact: impact that a certain natural / biological disaster may have on structures that develop economic activities in Lezha. The economic activities are divided into 3 main groups: agricultural land; industrial zones; and buildings with commercial services or office space as main or secondary function. This division reflects the availability of data. Each of the above elements is quantified in terms of exposure to the hazard. In some cases, tourism activities are highlighted as more relevant.

Environmental impact: the impact that a given disaster may have on environmental areas, protected areas, natural monuments, waterfronts, water bodies, and any other environmental element). The environmental impact covers impact on natural monuments; impact on different types of protected areas (IBA; national parks; Emerald network); and forestry and water resources in general.

Cultural impact: impact on cultural and historical heritage, and culturally relevant objects. This aspect covers all cultural monuments, as well as culturally relevant objects, such as churches or important buildings.

As regards hazards, the working team divided them into eight categories, in line with risk assessment strategies and the participatory process:

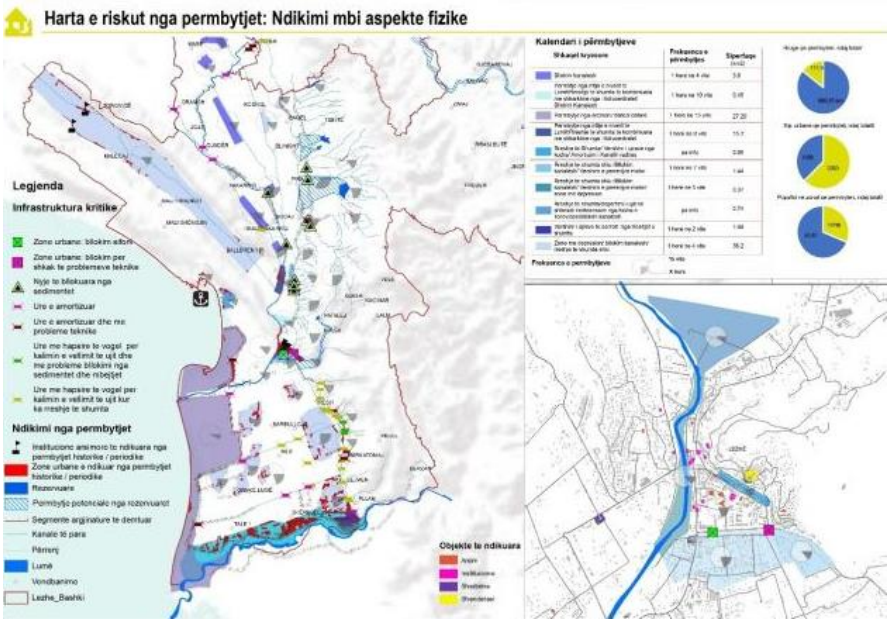
1. Seismic hazard;
2. Flooding;
3. Fire / Wildfire
4. Rock falling and landslides
5. Windstorms / Snow and frost
6. Pandemics
7. Climate change: impact on rainfalls and the sea-level rise
8. Climate change: impact on temperature change, draught and heat

A set of indicators was defined for each of the above components. Once the assessment is performed on each of the five factors, then a cumulative assessment is performed for each hazard. In the end, the risks are summed up in a multi-hazard final map. Estimates are performed both based on indicators and through cartographic representation.

A. Seismic Hazard Vulnerability Analysis

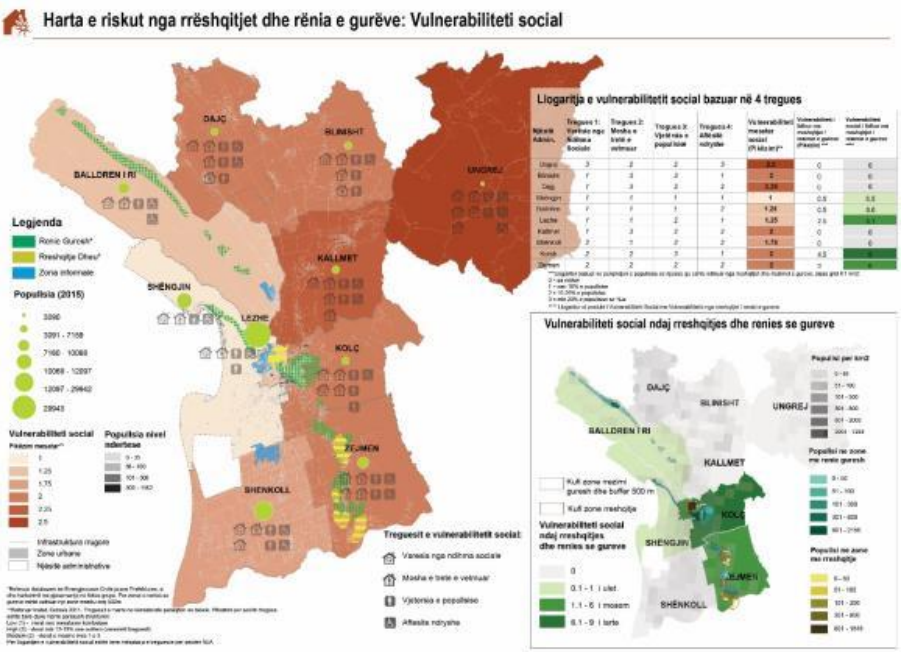
The digitalization of seismic hazard was based on several layers of information: in depth analysis carried out by structural and geological engineers within the project, territorial data from the General Local Plan, which was later updated by the working team, and by the participatory processes. The hazard exposure map was composed of areas of high liquefaction potential; buildings that are over 30 years old; and buildings in informal areas.

B. Flooding Hazard Vulnerability Analysis



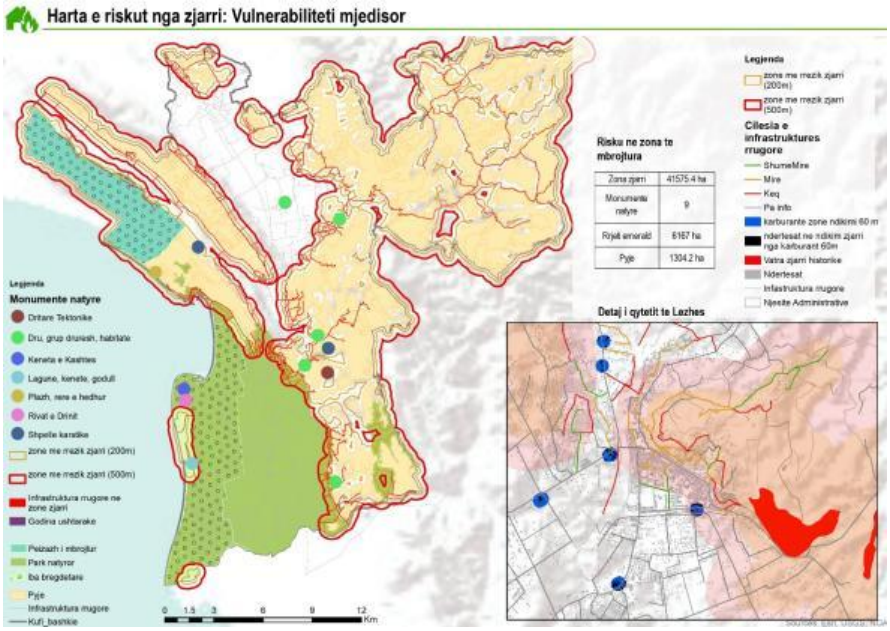
The definition of flood exposure is based on historical flooding data, participatory mapping with focus groups and key experts, data collected through semi – structured interviews, and secondary data. The areas were categorized according to their cause of flood, namely areas at risk of flooding by sea storms, blockage of canals, rivers overflowing, flooding of streams, damage to reservoir dams, etc. For each cause, the seasonal frequency was highlighted, in order to serve as a basis for the risk assessment.

C. Landslides and rock falling



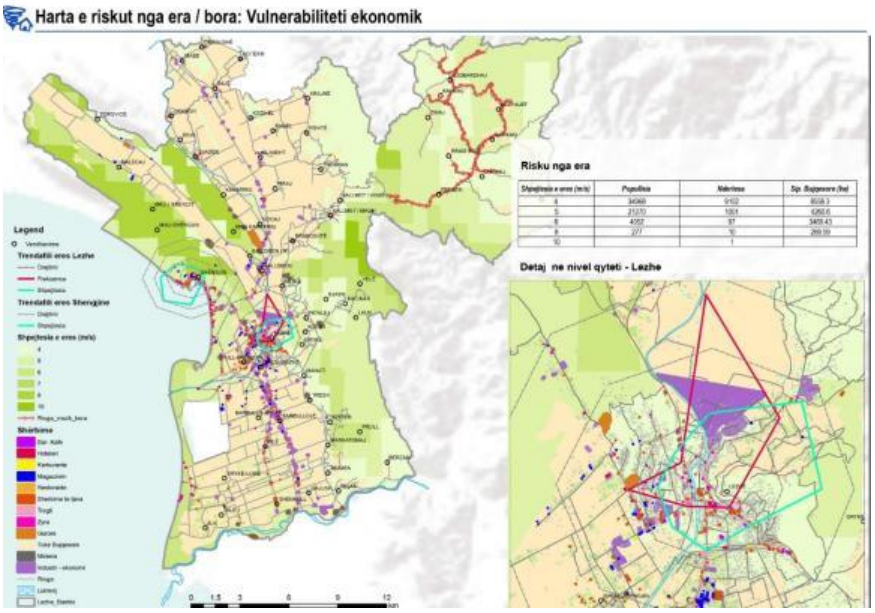
The assessment of vulnerability to risk from geological and geophysical phenomena (landslides and falling rocks / rocks) is based on secondary data received by the Civil Emergency Sector at Prefecture level, and by geological studies. Two main categories were differentiated: areas with risk of landslides, and areas with risk of rock falling. For each, a buffer of 100, 200 and 500 meters was designed, to highlight the exposure area of these hazards.

D. Fire / wildfire Hazard Vulnerability Analysis



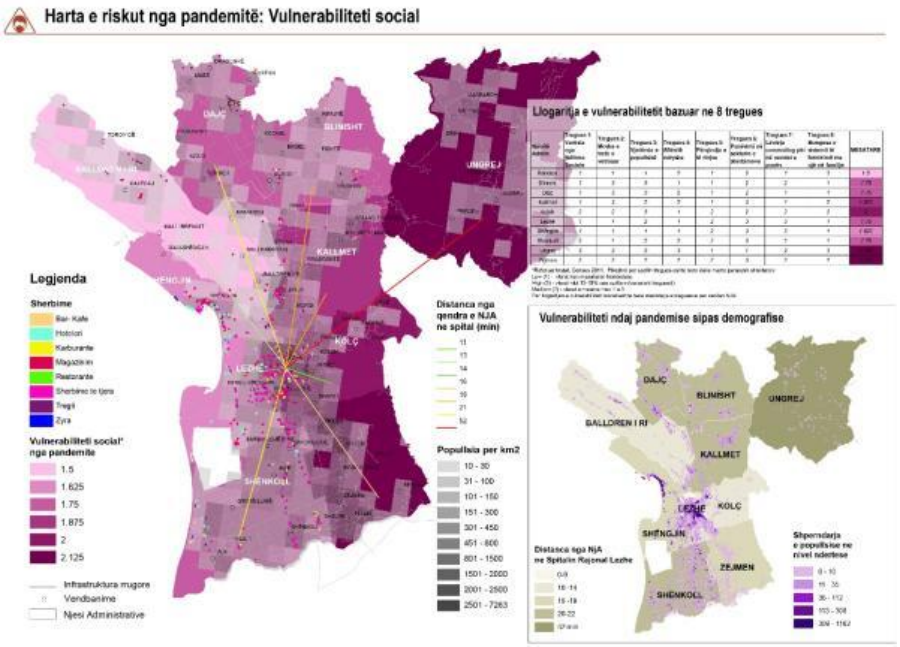
The assessment of vulnerability to wildfires considers two types of exposure: the registered fires as provided by the Fire Protection Department in the municipality; and the overall forest fund, which is exposed and at possible risk of fires. These areas are digitized according to the wind direction in Lezha and Shengjin. Their exposure area is identified as a buffer of 200 and 500 meters, according to the possible fire spread. Moreover, all fuel-based industrial activities that are at risk of explosion, such as gas stations are identified with a buffer area of 60 meters of exposure.

E. Windstorms / Snow Hazard Vulnerability Analysis



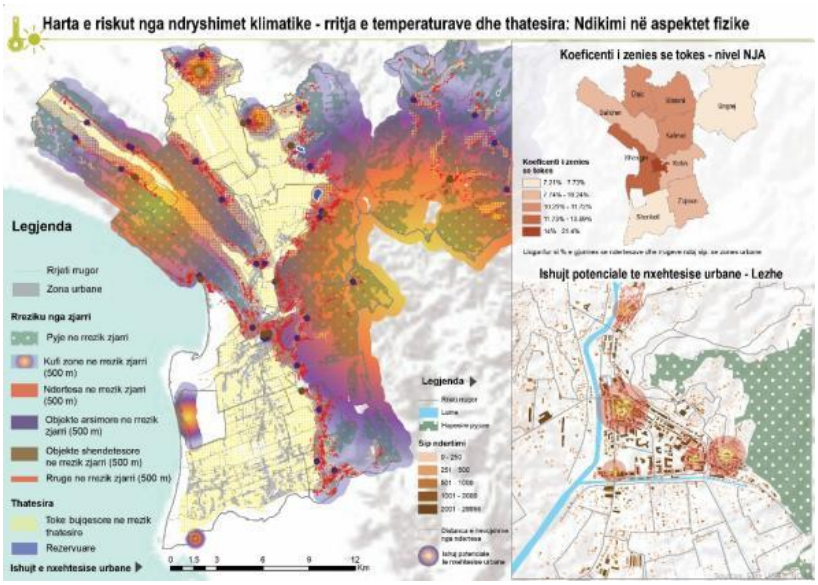
The areas with potential risk of blockage by snow are identified through participatory processes. Windstorm exposure is analyzed based on the average wind speed and wind direction, from 4 m / s to 10m / s.

F. Pandemics Vulnerability Analysis



In terms of vulnerability to pandemic risk, social and economic factors are analysed based on the experience with COVID-19 in Albania. The main impact of the pandemic has been on the mobility of people, the need to maintain physical distance between them, the impact on families in need who may have lost employment as a result of partial closure of economic activities, etc. Hence, 8 indicators were taken into consideration for this analysis: % of elderly who live alone; % of population aged +65; % of persons with disabilities; % of families receiving social aid; % of persons employed in service sector; % of population aged -15; % of families without proper water supply system; % of commuters to work. The analysis is accompanied by an evaluation of distance of each village to centre of administrative unit and to the municipality centre.

G. Climate change vulnerability analysis



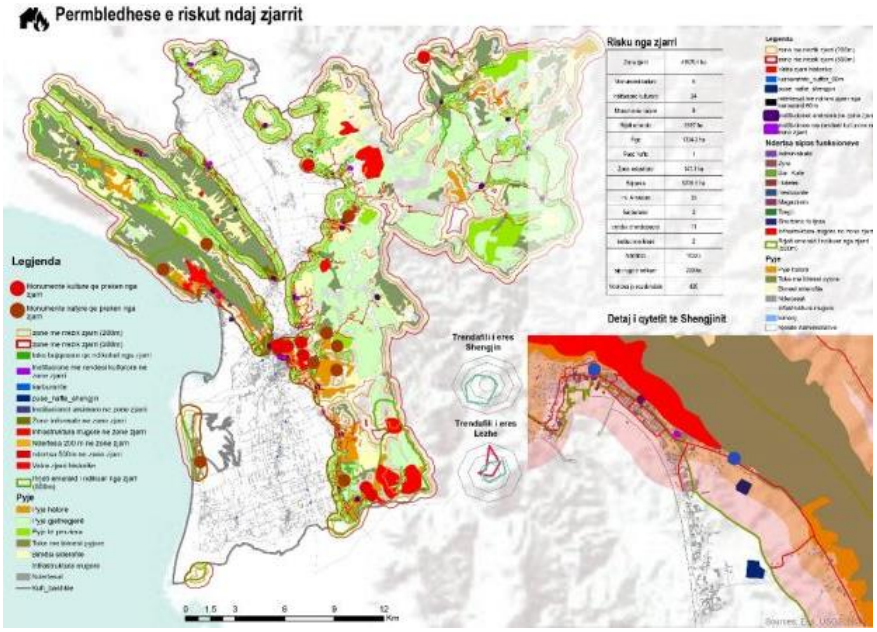
Climate change is already a fact and every local authority must be prepared to deal with its impacts. The Municipality of Lezha is affected and is expected to be affected by the negative impacts of climate change. For the purpose of analysis of vulnerability to climate change, two main impacts, depending on the exposure of the municipality, geographical position, level of urbanization, etc., are used:

– Drought, temperatures, fires and the creation of urban heat islands

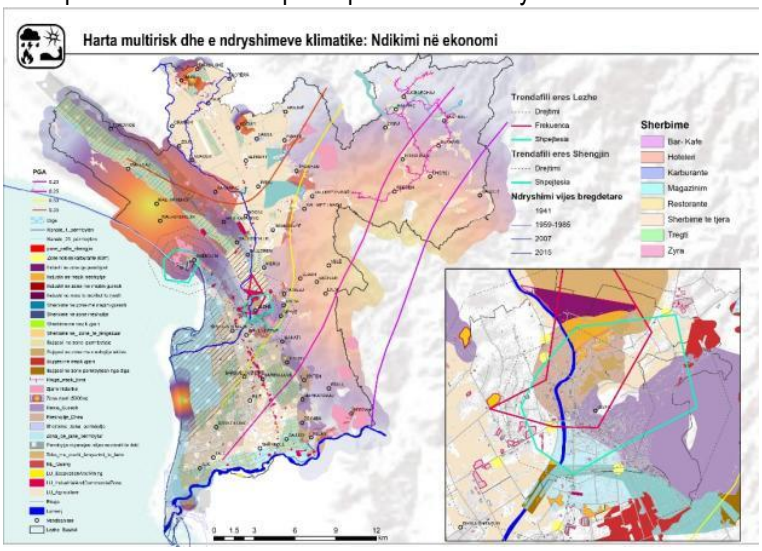
– Sea level rise and floods as a result of changing of rainfall regime

Based on the methodology set out above, risk, exposure and vulnerability assessments are performed using multiple hazards. To obtain this type of analysis, all vulnerability analyses are initially superimposed together according to the respective physical, economic, environmental, cultural and social aspects. Then, multi-risk maps are drafted according to different aspects overlap with the impacts of climate change.

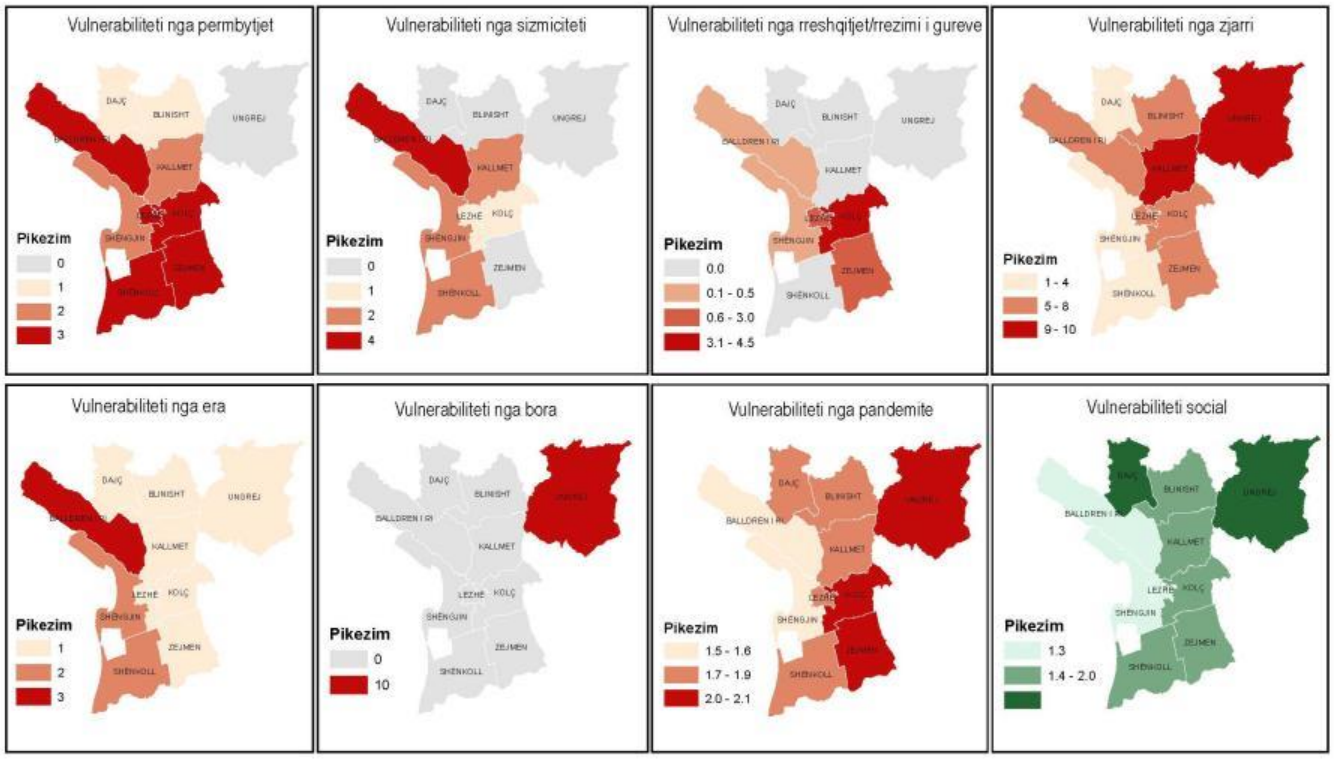
Example – crosscutting map for fire hazard



Example: multi-hazard map – impact on economy



Vulnerability ranking – Municipality of Lezha



As can be seen from the above, the highest vulnerability from floods is in the administrative units of Shënkoll, Zejmen, Kolsh, Balldren and in the city of Lezha. The highest vulnerability from landslides is in the area of administrative units Kolsh, Zejmen, Lezha and in Shengjin and Balldren in terms of falling rocks. The greatest risk of fires is in the administrative units of Kallmet and Ungrej. This comes as a result of large forest massifs and factorizing the increase in droughts and temperatures as a result of climate change. The greatest vulnerability to wind risk is found in the administrative units of Balldren, Shënkoll and Shengjin, while the snow is in the administrative unit of Ungrej. In terms of pandemic risk, the greatest vulnerability is in the administrative units of Ungrej, Kolsh, Zejmen as a result of the combination of factors such as population age, accessibility and economic assistance.

2.2.2 - DRR Strategy for the municipality of Lezha

The DRR Strategy for the municipality of Lezhe is one of the three main legal instruments that municipalities need to prepare in terms of the DRR. The strategy is an essential document for mainstreaming DRR in other sectors. It offers a wide array of measures that need to be taken at different scales and with different actors in order to achieve DRR in the municipality of Lezha. The strategy contains the following outline:

<u>Content of the Strategy:</u>

Executive Summary

Chapter 1- Introduction
Chapter 2- Hazard and Risk Assessment in Lezha municipality
Chapter 3- Vision and Objectives
Chapter 4- DRR Scenarios development
Chapter 5- Monitoring and implementing of the Strategy
Chapter 6: References

Vision and Objectives

The vision for the DRR strategy for the municipality of Lezha: "*The Municipality of Lezha is a municipality with a sustainable development and capable of coping with disasters. An informed and committed community, which interacts in an inter-institutional and inter-community manner to reduce disaster risk. A well-coordinated municipality, with high awareness for disaster preparedness, reduction, coping and recovery. Municipality of Lezha, as a model of adaptation to climate change and implementation of the Sendai Framework in Albania*"

The Objectives of the DRR Strategy

- ✓ OS1- DRR Information, community awareness and capacity building
- ✓ OS2- Lezha municipality DRR Institutional and financial capacity building
- ✓ OS3- Disaster Risk Mitigation through territory Interventions and Measures
- ✓ OS4- Institutional, operational capacity building and preparation for dealing with emergency situations

The strategic objectives are directly related to the disaster management cycle as per the following relationship with the different stages of the cycle:

	OS1	OS2	OS3	OS4
Prevention				
Preparedness				
Response				
Recovery				

More specifically, the strategic objectives focus on the following:

OS1- DRR Information, community awareness and capacity building

Understanding the risks from the community and interacting with the community for DRR, which includes 1) informing the community, taking into account the existing low level of understanding and commitment,

2) raising community awareness, with reference to actions that can be taken by citizens for guaranteeing a reduction of the risk of various disasters, 3) establishing volunteers' groups and building their capacities, including cooperation with various local organizations, and 4) building community capacities and establishing procedures for engagement in the DRR.

OS2- Lezha municipality DRR Institutional and financial capacity building

Territorial governance plays an important role in the DRR. The Municipality of Lezha must increase its institutional capacities and the interaction between different sectors. The concept of DRR should become part of all sectors and services provided by the municipality, and not be treated as a traditional sectoral issue with a narrow range of response after a disaster has occurred.

OS3- Disaster Risk Mitigation through territory Interventions and Measures

This strategic objective focuses directly on the interventions that the municipality should carry out or facilitate engagement of various actors in the short-, medium and long-term time frame for the DRR. These interventions are divided according to the risks from various disasters, which usually affect the territory of the municipality of Lezha. They are divided into structural and non-structural interventions, as well as feasibility studies. Some of the interventions are to be carried out by the municipality of Lezha, while some others can be carried out in cooperation with central authorities or in cooperation with other partner institutions.

OS4- Institutional, operational capacity building and preparation for dealing with emergency situations

This objective is directly related to coping with an emergency situation. It is important that the municipality is prepared and some of the main elements that should be on standby are food stocks, accommodation equipment such as tents, blankets, etc., equipment needed for volunteer groups, etc. Another important step is the preparation of evacuation plans of all institutions such as the municipality, schools, kindergartens, cultural centers, museums, etc.

Integration with Urban Planning

Mainstreaming DRR strategies in urban development plans comes with distinct challenges, but also generates opportunities for sustainable development, potentially bringing economic benefits. Impacts of disasters are most immediately and intensely felt at the local level. Hazards often occur and risk often manifests locally; thus many of the most effective tools to reduce exposure and vulnerability are executed at the local level; these include land-use regulations and enforcement of building codes, as well as basic environmental management and regulatory compliance that are essential for effective DRR.

Governments and communities can best engage with each other and work together at the local level on DRR, but also in implementing sustainable development and environmental management. Various types and scales of urban plans, from territorial to land-use zoning, can help to protect environmentally sensitive areas, and hence increase resilience. They can: reduce disaster risk through better planned infrastructure and the creation of open spaces; reduce vulnerability through appropriate location of housing and other critical services; mitigate climate change by ensuring optimum use of energy and reducing GHG emissions;

and improve resilience by ensuring upgrading and retrofitting of poorly planned and constructed settlements, ideally through a participatory process that will ensure implementation and sustainability.

Furthermore, the consideration of innovative planning and design ideas such as urban green growth strategies, transit-oriented design, creative open and public space development, and the use of green and blue infrastructure can help to reduce risk in urban areas while improving living conditions and driving cities towards sustainable and resilient development. An enabling factor for local DRR strategies in urban areas is developing an understanding of emerging risks, aided by developments in systems and systemic risk modelling, which allow the development of context-specific approaches in local DRR strategies and planning from neighborhood to city and territorial level. Such approaches must be backed up by the enforcement and updating of national codes and standards as part of national urban policies.

Workshop "Disaster risk reduction in the Municipality of Lezha" with Lezha Civil Emergency Directorate 22,09,2020

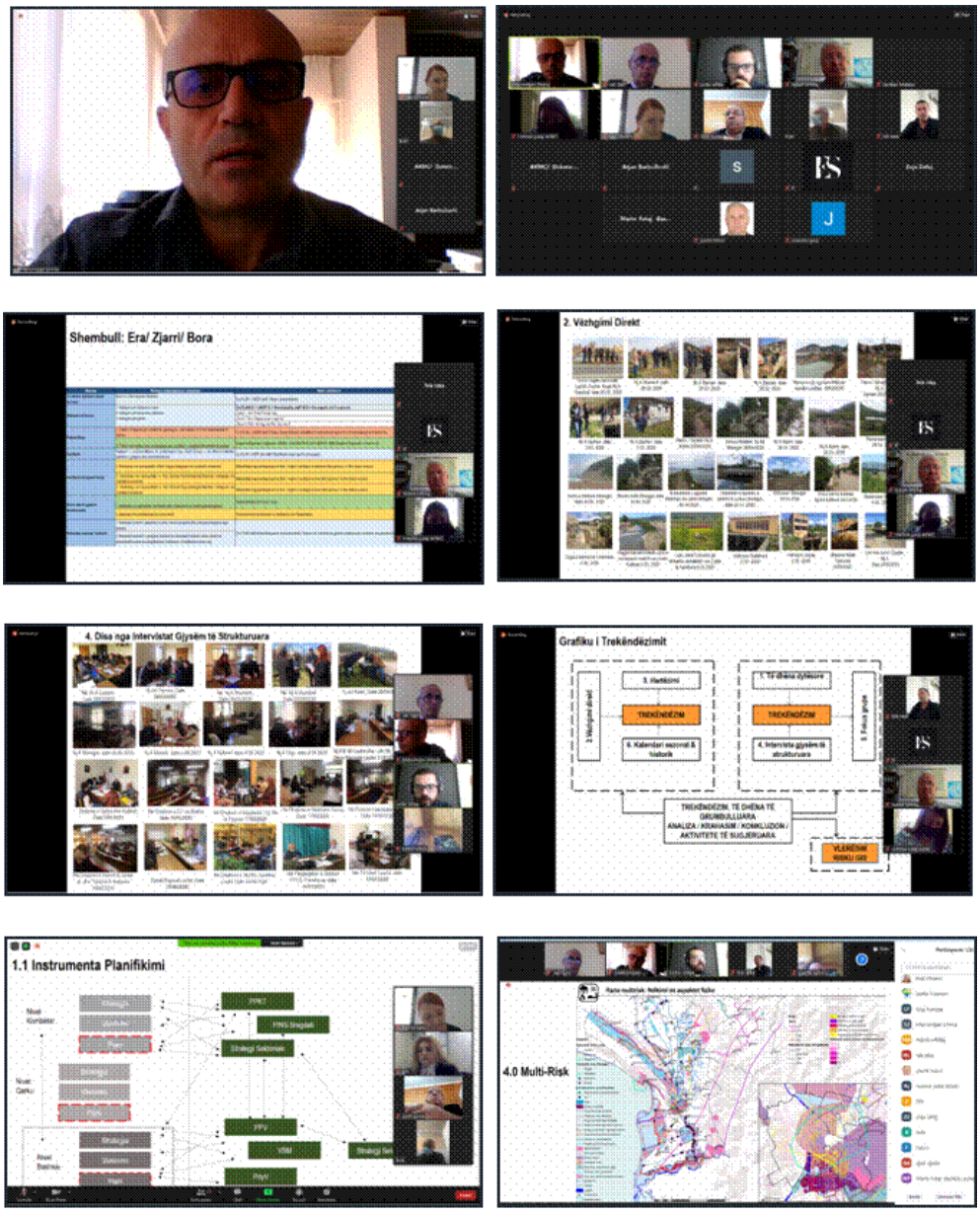
The scope of the event was to update the recently established Municipal Civil Emergency Directorate about the project developments as well training them on the local level risk assessment and its methodology.

This event was of great importance since the Municipal Civil Emergency Directorate is the Secretariat of Civil Protection Commission in Lezha municipality. As such Directorate's staff will be the experts implementing the DRR activities in the future.

Online training of Lezha municipality Civil Protection Commission on Local DRR strategy and its Action Plan integration into the development municipality plans". 14.10.2020

Besides the Local CP Commission, the event was attended by two experts from the National Civil Protection Agency/NCPA and the Head of Civil Emergency and Crisis Planning and Response Sector in Prefecture. The Workshop was about:

- ✓ Vulnerability and capacity assessment and plan of strategic activities to be integrated in the development plans of the municipality. Example of prioritization table of strategic activities;
- ✓ GIS based Disaster Risk Assessment in Lezha municipality;
- ✓ Municipal Civil Emergency plan.



2.2.3 - Civil Protection Plan

The Civil Emergency Plan of the Municipality of Lezha is the main document of the municipality for the management of civil emergencies in its territory.

The purpose of the Emergency Plan is to describe the structure and organization needed to effectively coordinate emergency preparedness, response and recovery under the jurisdiction of Lezha Municipality. This plan does not provide operational instructions for emergencies which are coordinated on site by the relevant emergency response organizations.

The plan was drafted at a time when expectations after the adoption of Law 45/2019 were high for a substantial transformation of the civil protection system at all levels, with a special emphasis on the local level. The principle of subsidiarity, sanctioned in law 139/2015 "On local self-government", is again sanctioned in law 45/2019, categorizing civil emergencies into local, regional and national, with a single contribution of the municipality in the first, joint with other municipalities or counties in the second and the commitment of the municipality in addition to the commitment of the whole state in the third.

The planning process was just as important, even more important than the written plan. Written plans are just one part of the broader preparation process, which includes: planning, prevention, training, public education, and resource mobilization.

The municipal civil emergency plan describes the structures and organization required to effectively coordinate short-term civil emergency preparedness, response and recovery. By gathering together and clarifying the roles and responsibilities of all institutions, state structures and private entities, non-profit organizations and business in the territory of the municipality, the plan aims to:

- ✓ Prevent, mitigate and recover from disasters with potential impact to human life, property, cultural heritage and the environment;
- ✓ To guarantee the use of all possible resources in the municipality for the purpose of public safety, continuous preservation of economic activity, localization of the emergency area and mitigation of consequences;
- ✓ Coordinate and harmonize tasks with the Prefect of the region and with central and local institutions and structures as well as non-governmental actors in order to increase disaster recovery capacity.

Measurable and knowledge-based objectives that define the specific outcomes that must occur for a plan to successfully meet its purpose are:

- ✓ Establish a procedure for a periodic evaluation and review of the plan;
- ✓ Describe the procedures for implementing the plan;
- ✓ Identify internal and external communication procedures for an approaching disaster;
- ✓ Identify how food, clothing, shelter, transportation and medical services are provided to people affected by emergencies;
- ✓ Identify the functional roles and responsibilities of internal and external partners;
- ✓ Identify the logistical support and resource requirements needed to implement the plan;
- ✓ Identify priorities for restoring essential services provided by local, central authorities and private entities;
- ✓ Describe any mutual assistance agreements;
- ✓ Describe a training and exercise program for staff assigned responsibilities in the plan.

The process of drafting the Civil Emergency Plan was led by UNDP experts and was carried out in cooperation with Co Plan experts, Municipality of Lezha, Civil Protection Commission, especially with Civil Emergencies Directorate in the municipality. In addition to the municipality, other governmental and non-governmental actors at the municipal and the regional level were involved in the process of preparing the plan, in particular the institution of the Prefect of Lezha region and the territorial branches of central institutions in the region. NCPA experts were part of the process through consultations and joint planning process.

Challenges related to plan preparation:

- ✓ Existing national legal basis on DRR and CP is incomplete and out of date
- ✓ The methodology for drafting civil emergency plans does not exist;
- ✓ There are no Standard Operating Procedures and no operational manuals;
- ✓ Staff of the Civil Emergency Directorate in Lezha municipality are young and inexperienced;
- ✓ Prefectures Civil Emergency Plans, partially updated in 2018 are still incomplete;

An advantage consisted on the fact that Civil Emergency Plan was drafted in parallel with local Disaster Risk Assessment and local DRR strategy

The Plan outline was based on UNDP Manuals 2003-2005, prefecture CE plan outlines, Italian, Canadian, UK and FEMA models. The indicative outline content is as follows:

1. Plan administration;
2. Overview of the plan;
3. Structures, organization, responsibilities and tasks;
4. Emergency response
5. Hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities
6. Operational functions in responding to emergencies and recovery;
7. Early warning, monitoring and alarm
8. Stages in responding to civil emergencies in the municipality. Operational roles and responsibilities
9. Appendices

Online training of Lezha municipality Civil Protection Commission experts organized on November 24th 2020.

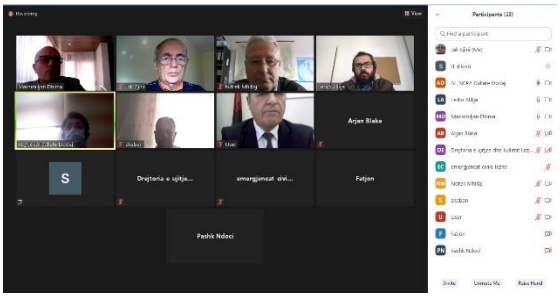
The training was held with the participation of Lezha Municipality Civil Protection Commission members, Prefecture and NACP experts.

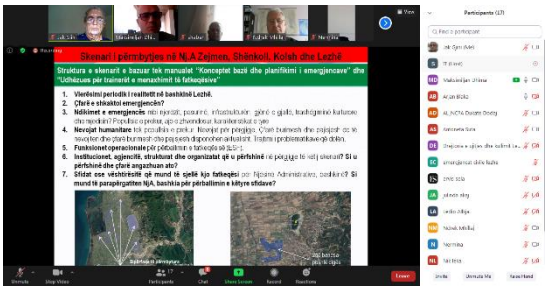
Three key themes were presented:

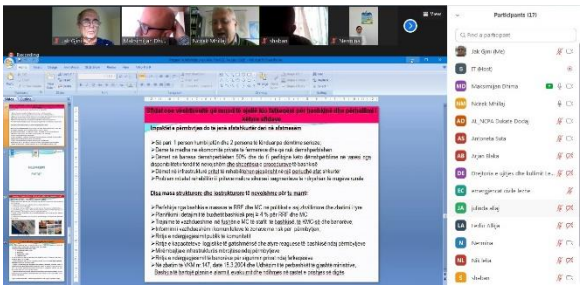
1. "Flood scenario in Zejmen, Shënkoll, Kolsh and Lezha"
2. "Civil Emergency Plan, Lezha Municipality", and
3. "Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy, Lezha Municipality".

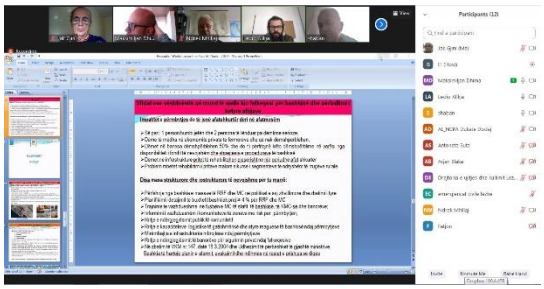
All the comments and suggestions from the on-line training and the following period were reflected into both documents which are already considered final drafts.

During the implementation, both draft documents, were officially sent to NACP for any additional comment and suggestion. The most experienced NACP experts were also invited and actively participated in the pilot project events, providing thus very valuable comments and suggestions.









In support to the development of these documents, several technical studies were carried out, including:

Analysis Report for Geology

The expert Geological Engineer prepared a detailed report on geological and geotechnical conditions based on field visits, previous studies, and expert opinion. The report offers an overview of geological conditions in the municipality of Lezha. This report is complemented with a series of recommendation for further studies and actions that the municipality can take in order to reduce risks.

Analysis Report for Seismology

A seismology expert prepared a seismic report for the municipality of Lezha. The report contains PGA values for the municipality. These are essential especially in terms of conditions for construction. The report also contains an analysis and classification of soils vis-à-vis PGA as well as it identifies main areas with potential of liquefaction. These are essential data when conducting risk assessments.

Analysis Report for Building Vulnerability

The report has been prepared by a Civil Engineer regarding building typology and their vulnerability to earthquakes. The civil engineer has analysed the different typologies identified in Lezha during the site visits. For each typology, the engineer gives indication of possible damages and typology of damages that can occur in case of future earthquakes. The civil engineer gives also some recommendation regarding future and in-depth studies depending on building typologies as well as possible remedies for the current situation.

GIS database for DRR

The municipality of Lezha will have access on a detailed and integrated database in GIS. All data gathered, as well as all the assessment have been conducted in GIS. Therefore, the municipality has a direct tool in managing risks and hazards. Additionally, the GIS database is essential in terms of monitoring the implementation of the Strategy, the re-assessment of risks, and the future review of the plan, strategy and assessment as per legal requirement.

2.3 - Conclusions and next steps in local DRR framework development

The current practice with the pilot DRR in the Municipality of Lezhe shows that there is great potential for replication in other municipalities. The methodology is simple and working and can be replicated in similar contexts.

Field visits and semi-structured interviews were an essential tool to gather data and engage the community in the preparation of the DRR, hence this practice should be continued and combined with community risk mapping and preparation of seasonal and historic calendars. The use of GIS has proven highly beneficial as it offers great potentials not only for the preparation of the assessment, but it is also an essential tool for the municipality to monitor the situation through periodical updates of the database.

Regarding the process, depending on the size of municipalities, except for Tirana, some municipalities could be grouped together for the preparation of local DRR. Such groups refer to neighboring municipalities mirroring the same groups used for the preparation of General Local Territorial Plans by the NTPA. Although at the end, local DRR plans would be specific for each municipality, some of the processes can be developed jointly. Additionally, as with border municipalities risks are common and usually there is a strong dependency by actions taken in adjacent municipalities, this approach would allow for creating greater synergies. The process should be associated with training for municipal staff and training for the local Commissions on Civil Protection at municipal level.

What is different today in the municipality of Lezha?

- ✓ The Municipality already has a document of the Local DRR Strategy which should be reviewed every 5 years (Article 11 of Law 45/2019). The document is built on four strategic objectives in accordance with the 4 priorities of the Sendai Framework and ensures the Sendai Framework full implementation at the local level as well as the fulfillment of all obligations of the municipality stipulated in law 45/2019.
- ✓ Beyond taking institutional measures to reduce the risk of strategy implementation, the municipality of Lezha should conduct annual monitoring of it. Therefore, for each of the strategy activities and measures, a series of indicators have been identified to monitor and measure its implementation.
- ✓ A very important aspect that has been introduced in the strategy document is reporting through it on the implementation of the Sendai Framework at the municipal level. This reporting should be done to Prefect and NCPA in a structured form based on Sendai Monitoring and Sendai Indicators.

- ✓ The Local Strategy implementation and Sendai implementation will help the municipality to monitor the implementation of the local DRR strategy as well as to report on the impact of the policies pursued. Every year, the municipality of Lezha must prepare a situation monitoring report according to a structure defined in this document.
- ✓ The municipality already has a Disaster Risk Assessment document that describes in detail the hazards, risks and vulnerabilities in the territory of the municipality. Its GIS format facilitates both its use and the process of updating it every 3 years (Article 9 of Law 45/2019).
- ✓ No matter how much Municipality prepares for preventing the disasters, it cannot prevent them 100%. Therefore, it must be prepared for dealing with disaster when they occur, and the Municipality has now the document of the Local Civil Emergency Plan based on the most advanced national but also international experiences.
- ✓ The main purpose of the civil emergency plan is to organize in a timely manner the coordinating activities of state authorities, local government structures, private entities and NGOs operating in the territory of the municipality, to prevent and deal with any emergency situations caused by natural and other disasters which threaten or damage human life, property, livestock, cultural heritage and the environment. The plan defines the responsibilities of the participating actors for the prevention and coping of emergencies as well as the duties of each in this context. The plan establishes procedures and rules for the comprehensive coordination of stakeholders in the emergency situation as well as specific activities provided for the prevention and relief, preparation and protection, for coping with any emergency situation caused by natural and other disasters which threaten or damage human life, property, livestock, cultural heritage and the environment, as well as return to normalcy and development in the affected territory and beyond.
- ✓ However, an effective multi hazard emergency plan should not be a written document that is produced once and then forgotten in the shelves.
- ✓ Through the Director of the Municipal Civil Emergency Directorate and the Municipal Civil Protection Commission, it must be ensured that the plan operates in a real emergency. This will always need to be kept up to date and reviewed through a civil emergency planning process that will be an ongoing cycle of planning, training, exercise, validation and corrective action.
- ✓ After the endorsement by Municipal Civil Protection Commission, in order to enter in force, the Civil Emergency Directorate should as soon as possible submit for approval to the Municipal Council: The Disaster Risk Assessment, the Local DRR Strategy and the Local Civil Emergency Plan (obligations stemming respectively from paragraph 5 of article 8; paragraph 6 of article 14 and article 11 of law 45/2019);
- ✓ Next step is mainstreaming DRM into all the municipal strategies, policies, development plans and other municipal documents.
- ✓ It is also necessary that every decision and practice to be risk informed and to comply with DRR documents. This would ensure the prevention of new disaster risks, the reduction of existing ones and the management of residual risk, guaranteeing thus the strengthening of resilience and as a result contribute to the achievement of the development of sustainable society.
- ✓ Another crucial aspect is the continuous provision of the necessary financial resources for financing the Disaster Risk Management measures approved by the municipality according to their priorities and timelines.

- ✓ Municipality should ensure the continuous monitoring and review of each of the three documents according to the respective provisions of law 45/2019.
- ✓ Referring to Risk Management Capability Assessment Guidelines (2015/C 261/03), the whole risk management cycle is composed by: a) risk assessments; b) risk management planning for prevention and preparedness; c) risk prevention and preparedness measures. While the first and second one has already been completed, the third step remains the most demanding and challenging issue for the municipality in its future DRM activity.

IV – RESOURCE- AND PRIORITY-BASED WORK PLAN

RESEAL project is designed as a multi-partner initiative and relies on third party contributions for funding activities to be implemented. UNDP contributed through fully funding the pilot interventions. Last November 2020, UNDP concluded a financing agreement with the Government of Sweden for a contribution of 20 million SEK to the project, and by end December 2020, the Government of Portugal made a contribution of 250,000 EUR. UNDP Country Office is following up with its HQs and the representatives of the Government of Portugal for concluding the agreement. The current project financial envelope is the following:

Contributing Partner	**Amount**	**Currency**	**US$ Equivalent** (as per respective UN Rate of Exchange-RoE)	**Status of Contribution**
Government of Sweden	20,000,000	SEK	2,372,092*	✓ Financing Agreement signed on 24 November 2020 ✓ 75% of the contribution (15 million SEK) transferred to UNDP accounts on 8 December 2020
Government of Portugal	250,000	EUR	203,750**	✓ Contribution received on 31 Dec 2020
UNDP	200,000	US$	200,000	✓ Active
Estimated TOTAL (dependent on final applicable exchange rate)			**2,775,842**	

*) Received 15 million SEK equivalent to $1,760,770. To be received 5 million SEK, applying UN RoE of Jan 2021.
**) Received 250,000 EUR, applying UN RoE of Dec 2020.

Based on the resources made available, a prioritization of interventions has been necessary and developed in line with the major directions of the project document and in support to the development of the national DRR framework, that is the National DRR Strategy and National Civil Protection Plan as well as in building a representative, yet a solid local level experience in engaging local stakeholders for the development and adoption of local DRR strategies and local Civil Emergency Plans.

At central level, the efforts will focus on the following:

In line with the goals and targets of the SDGs and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNDP supports actionable risk information; strengthens disaster and climate risk governance through policy, legal and institutional arrangements that foster integrated solutions. Based on the ***Capacity Assessment*** exercise that is being conducted under the pilot the capacity gaps related to disaster risk reduction, are assessed through stakeholder mapping and systems thinking approach. Results of the DRR capacity assessment will contribute to the development of strong national components such as the DRR strategy and Action Plan, the National Platform on DRR and the National Civil Emergency Plan.

In the process of DRR capacity assessment and Strategic Planning, a core group of DRR stakeholders emerge, can be institutionalized in the ***DRR National Platform*** for the country. With the support of the working group and experts, the DRR National Platform concept, objectives, structure, main functions, management modality and mechanisms will be developed.

A National Platform for DRR can be defined as a nationally owned and led forum or committee of multi-stakeholders. It serves as an advocate of DRR at different levels and provides coordination, analysis and advice on areas of priority requiring concerted action through a coordinated and participatory process. Strengthening the landscape of the National Platform is a pre-condition for effective implementation of the Sendai Framework at national, regional level, including through the coordination of DRR through the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The structure of the National Platform coordination mechanism, as well as the legal status, budget, scope and level of activity, vary across countries. Nevertheless, all aim to ensure multi-stakeholder engagement in building resilience at national level, by implementing DRR measures and mainstreaming risk reduction dimensions across relevant sectoral policies, programmes and instruments.

The major functions of the National Platform for DRR can be summarized as follows:

- ✓ National Platform for DRR is a national mechanism by which countries can address inter-related social, economic and environmental problems.
- ✓ National Platform for DRR work towards better resourced, effective and integrated DRR efforts amongst national stakeholders and amongst national, regional and international organizations. They support development goals, by providing a framework for systematic thought and commitment to priority actions across sectors and the territory.
- ✓ National Platforms for DRR serve as catalysts for national consultations and consensus building, as well as for DRR priority identification and policy formulation, implementation and monitoring DRR activities.

The *National DRR Strategy* is essential for implementing and monitoring country's risk reduction priorities by setting implementation milestones, establishing key roles and responsibilities of government and nongovernment actors, and identifying technical and financial resources. In order to implement the priorities they are set out to achieve, they need to be supported by a well-coordinated institutional architecture, legislative mandates, political buy in of decision makers, and human and financial capacities at all levels of society and this will be assured through the national DRR platform.

The development of the Strategy will be conducted in line with Sendai Framework and will include a shift towards a more effective engagement of local stakeholders, scientific institutions and private sector, it will be developed for two periods, current (2021-2025) and planned (2025 -2030), in line with the DRM system capacity development plan. Also, the ***National Civil Emergency Plan*** of 2004 will be updated accordingly.

Another important element that will feed into the above-mentioned processes in light of the severe and acute public health emergency due to the ***COVID-19 pandemic is assessment of risk and measures related***

to risk preparedness and risk mitigation of biological hazards. It has been recognized as part of the Sendai Framework, and is globally addressed under the International Health Regulations.

Adapting to this development, along with the ongoing DRR capacity assessment, a parallel process focuses on preparedness and response capacities related to management of biological hazards as a national and community priority. COVID 19 pandemic provided the world with the real cost of facing with a biological disaster related to an unknown virus, emphasizing the need for preparedness in order to reduce risk of biological hazards through effective and timely prevention, preparedness and response actions, including measures to reduce exposure.

Under the current central level pilot, the mobilized expertise is assisting:

- ✓ To prepare background analytical information on the current system of detection and prevention of potential health diseases and crisis management in Albania in line with strengthening the preparedness to potential pandemics and other crises, including the review of the role of the key stakeholders.
- ✓ To suggest recommendations for inclusion of health crisis preparedness (COVID-19 related) targets and indicators in the overall process of assessing the capacities of Disaster Risk Management System in Albania, with consideration of the UN Framework for Post COVID-19 Recovery Framework.
- ✓ To support in developing health crisis management related specific recommendation in line with DRM/DRR capacity development.
- ✓ To provide further recommendations and suggestions for future DRR/DRM Strategy in Albania related to the health crisis preparedness and management.

Capacity building activities will be conducted to support operationalization and functionality of the national Platform, implementation of Sendai framework for DRR and strengthening of reporting capacities at national level as well as support the capacity building of the National Civil Emergency Agency to be part of EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

In addition, ***guidelines for multi hazard risk assessment*** will be developed and stakeholders trained on their use and application.

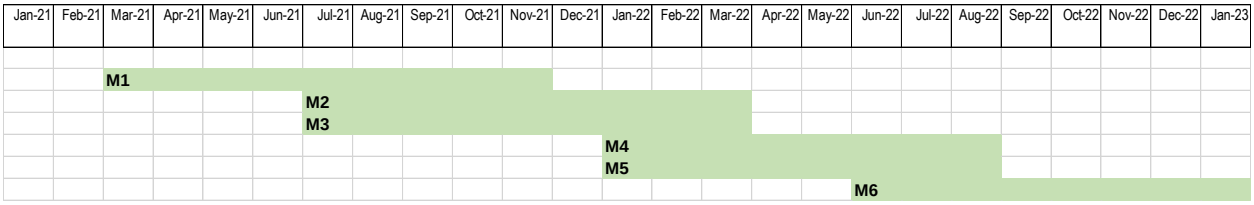
Another important element is DRR mainstreaming in other sectors which has tremendous potential to reduce disaster losses by ensuring that all decisions and activities, particularly around asset maintenance and development, are risk informed. This becomes very relevant as post-earthquake reconstruction emerges and the need for the country to ***update and align the building codes with Eurocodes*** is key and trainings at different level for development, application and enforcement will accompany the process.

At local level, the intervention will be based on the finalized Lezha municipality pilot, which will produce the methodology and the model for the local DRR documents and stakeholder operational roles. The Lezha pilot products are being consulted with the National Civil Protection Agency and will seek the approval of the latter, before moving forward.

The expansion will be limited, proportional to the resources, with the aim to ***cover at least six municipalities***, divided in three typologies, considering several criteria, inclusive of: the extent of impact of the climate change (coastal area), the geographical distribution (north-south), the frequency of major

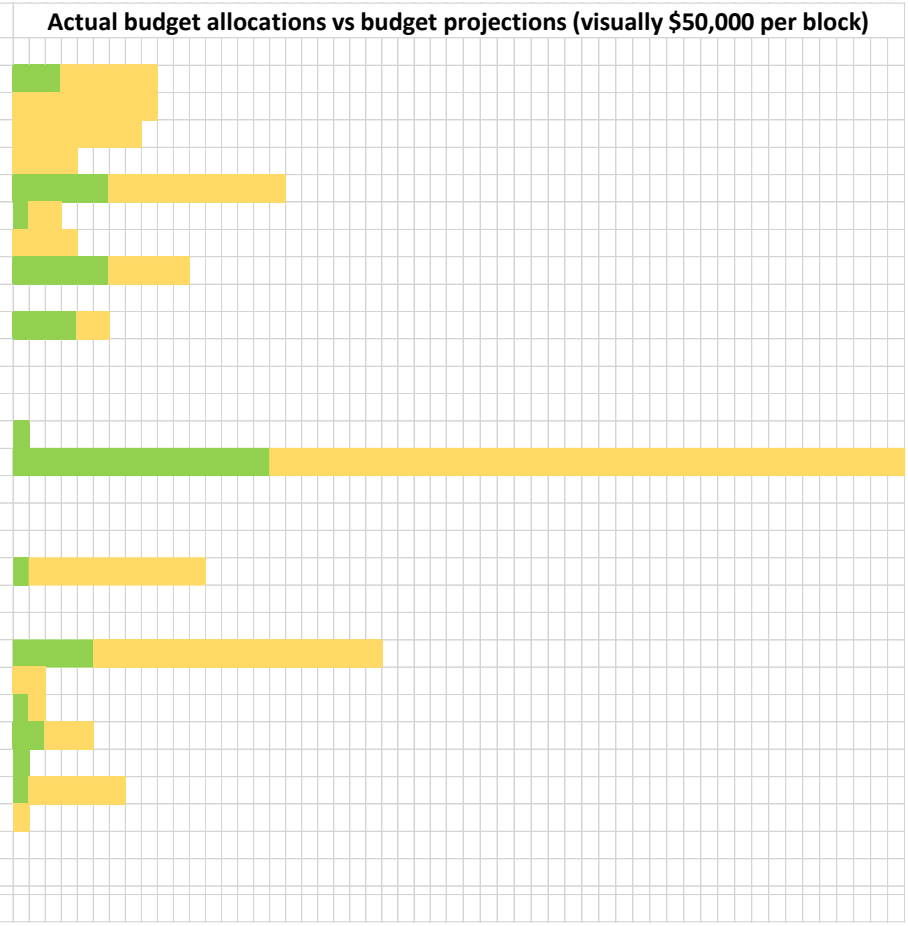
disasters (historical vulnerability), the economic vulnerability to disasters (share of agricultural land, urban size, etc.).

Indicative timeline of deployment of municipal assistance



Visual Resource Planning

Level of Interventions as per Resource Availability (Module 1)		
Component 1: Strengthening DRM institutional, policy and legal framework in Albania	**Module 1**	**Intervention**
Output 1.1: Capacity Assessment of DRR institutions & Output 1.4: Establishment of National DRR Platform	470,000	125,000
Output 1.2: Organizational support to NACP	450,000	
Output 1.3: Civil Protection & DRR related legislation developed	400,000	
Output 1.5: National Platform for DRR tested	175,000	
Output 1.6: Preparation of new building codes	850,000	300,000
Output 1.7: Support national capacity development in risk assessments and emergency planning	130,000	32,000
Output 1.8: Civil protection system Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)	200,000	
Output 1.9: National DRR Strategic Document & Action Plan	550,000	320,000
Output 1.10: National Risk/or multi-hazard Assessment	-	
Output 1.11: National Civil Emergency Plan (NCEP)	290,000	200,000
Component 2: Strengthening disaster preparedness capacities at all levels		
Output 2.1: Seismic hazard monitoring strengthened	-	
Output 2.2: Biological risk management	-	50,000
Output 2.3: Local risk assessment for & Output 2.4: Local DRR Strategies & Civil Emergency Plans (LCEP)	2,720,000	820,000
Output 2.5: Operational capacities of 'first responders' strengthened		
Component 3: Sustain Albanian's Regional & International Cooperation		
Output 3.1: Cooperation with EUCPM and regional networking	590,000	32,000
Project Operations		
Project Management Team	1,132,100	225,000
Travel	121,000	11,880
Equipment and supplies	95,500	58,500
Office running costs	256,150	102,000
Conf/workshops and translation services	60,000	26,000
PR & Communication Staff and Visibility	336,000	70,000
Audit & Evaluation	50,000	14,000
Estimated costs Module 1		
Prioritized activities & costs		



V – IMPLEMENTATION WORK PLAN Jul 2020 – Jun 2023

	2020 (quarters)		2021 (quarters)				2022 (quarters)				2023 (quarters)	
	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2
Activities												
Output 1.1: DRR Capacity Assessment & Output 1.4: National Platform for DRR												
Output 1.6: New building codes according to Eurocode & national annexes prepared												
Output 1.7: Support national capacity development in risk assessments												
Output 1.9: National DRR Strategic Document & Action Plan developed												
Output 1.11: National Civil Emergency Plan (NCEP) formulated												
Output 2.2: Biological risk management with focus on prevention and preparedness												
Lezha pilot												
Output 2.3: Local Risk Assessment & Output 2.4: Local DRR Strategies & Local CE Plans (LCEP)												
Replicating Lezha experience to other municipalities												
Output 3.1: Cooperation with EUCPM and regional networking strengthened and sustained												

VI - SUSTAINABILITY

RESEAL is a project that contributes to the strengthening, organization and articulation of the entire DRR sector, thus being an input and trigger to a permanent development program area under the responsibility of the Government and involving active public participation in implementation.

To make the project impact outlive the project end, and ensure the project results are preserved and further improved, requires institutional stability, a clear strategic and operational framework, collaboration and coordination mechanisms, capacities in place, stakeholder involvement in project activities' design and implementation, solid monitoring systems, and adequate financing.

Project management structure: The Project will be overseen by a Steering Committee (PSC), as the central coordinating body for the implementation. In line with the above UNDP standard management arrangement, the proposed composition of the Steering Committee will include:

1. Ministry of Defense representative (co-Chair)
2. UNDP Resident Representative (co-Chair)
3. National Agency for Civil Protection (NACP) representative
4. Ministry of Interior representative
5. Associations of municipalities' representatives
6. Representatives of municipalities participating in the project
7. Representatives of development partners contributing to the pooled fund
8. Other key stakeholders as deemed necessary and agreed by the PSC

The role of the Steering Committee will be to guide and monitor the progress of implementation and be responsible for making by consensus management decisions for the Project when required. The Steering Committee will meet periodically, at least every six months or as often as necessary upon the request of one of its members.

The project will be directly supervised and supported by UNDP Albania in the role of Project Assurance. UNDP Country Office will also ensure the provision of standard project implementation support services, including human resource, procurement, and logistics.

Institutional stability. The project's main counterparts will be the National Civil Protection Agency and selected municipalities. As per the recent approved legislation, NACP is an upgraded successor of the General Directorate of Civil Emergencies, with a legally broader scope and resources, and is currently in a stage of re-organization and increase of human resources and expertise. Besides Government support, NACP will be in the focus of development assistance for increasing its capacities and resource base, especially supported by the Italian Cooperation, but also through collaboration with other European alike agencies.

Municipalities are constitutionally bound public institutions, representing the lowest level of local government in Albania. The municipal role is sanctioned in the law 139/2015 "On local self-governance" and their network covers the entire territory of the country in accordance with the new organization resulting from the 2014 territorial and administrative reform. In the area of DRR, based on the principle of "subsidiarity", which is the principle of performing functions and exercising competencies at a

government level as close as possible to the community, the municipality, as a local authority, has direct competencies in the field of civil protection. Since August 2019, municipalities are bound to implement the law no. 45/2019 “On Civil Protection”, which makes a considerable improvement leap in scope and objective, by expanding from civil emergency to civil protection and embracing the concept of resilience.
Strategic and operational framework. A National Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction is still in a draft form since 2014 and thus, not in force. Civil emergencies in Albania are governed by the National Civil Emergencies Plan (NCEP) and the Disaster Risk Assessment in Albania (2003), which were prepared with UNDP assistance in 2003, but have not been updated/revised ever since.

RESEAL commits to address this obsolete situation and develop, in collaboration with national stakeholders, a new National Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction and a National Civil Protection Plan.

Collaboration and coordination mechanisms. At present, there is no multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder National Platform for advancing national commitment to Disaster Risk Reduction. Even though DRR is addressed in some policies, strategies or action plans, the adopted approach is not systematic, and DRR is not integrated into sectoral and multi-sectoral plans.

In this respect, RESEAL project has already embarked on a capacity assessment exercise that runs quasi in parallel with the efforts of forging institutional cooperation and will lead to the establishment of a National DRR Platform, as inclusive forum for stakeholder engagement in disaster risk management. The establishment of a national and local DRR cooperation modality Albania is one of the priorities highlighted also in the Civil Protection Law as well as in line with the Sendai Framework priorities which articulates the National Platforms as an effective venue for stakeholder consultations and engagement in the development of DRM system capacities in the country.

Besides this, the project will promote collaboration between the central and local levels, as it will directly engage the NACP in reviewing and monitoring the progress and quality of work carried out at the local level. In other words, the project will promote the partnership and collaboration between NACP and municipalities, grounded on improved organizational settings and defined protocols.

Capacities. The system-level sustainability of institutional capacities created will be ensured by the development and adoption of relevant regulatory and policy/planning frameworks as well as standards, protocols and guidelines for the aspects of civil protection and DRR that the project is developing. Individual capacity building, co-design, and hands-on practice through implementation will be an integral part of project activities. The proposed approach will raise individual professional capacities and thus enhance institutional capacities and the sustainability of the efforts.

Stakeholder involvement. RESEAL will engage and collaborate with various departments and experts of the NACP during the implementation of project activities. This engagement will aim to make NACP an active contributor to the implementation, provide hands-on capacity building, and benefit NACP staff to follow up. Furthermore, planning processes at municipal and community levels are already applying a participatory approach, where key stakeholders are engaged in shaping the risk assessment profiles and the measures to prevent and mitigate future disasters. Common support, understanding and effective cooperation of various players will also be achieved by establishing the National Platform, where various DRR issues will be discussed and solved by the consent of all parties.

Monitoring systems. A monitoring system will be embedded in the National DRR Strategy Action Plan, developed in collaboration with the NACP, the latter being supported to be able to carry out monitoring and reporting independently. Likewise, NACP will be supported to assess the situation and the level of readiness of municipal entities in terms of strategic and operational capacities, so as to facilitate collaboration and support.

Financing. While the project will contribute to the sustainability of results, the environment where the project evolves is also important. The Government should pursue with coherence and commitment its set priorities and ensure its strategic objectives are addressed with due coordination and resources. Currently, the NACP is financially supported to multiply its staff, while at municipal level, an earmark of 4% of the municipal budget for DRR is a legal requirement. NACP expects to receive additional external support for improving its overall working conditions and equipment base, while a few donors have pledged support for strengthening the decentralized fire protection and rescue service (i.e. Italy, Poland). Nevertheless, the Government should maintain and increase its level of financing and enforce the legislation in place in view of the future threats and needs.

The project's exit strategy relies on the following principles:

1. Participatory conceptualization of project outputs and activities: All project partners and beneficiaries will be included in shaping the outputs of the project, not only to ensure ownership and sustainability, but to achieve project buy-in, and facilitate a smooth transition towards a post-project situation.
2. Introduction of tools, standards, methodologies, and skills which facilitate the daily work of and operations and allow for independent post project activities.
3. Continuous advising and monitoring: through different tools and methods, the Project will provide advice and will monitor the conduction of activities by the different actors with the aim to minimize dependency on the project. Support will be decremental, with the final aim to full transition and handover.

VII – FINANCIAL REPORTING

Expenses	TOTAL Project Budget	Expenditures Jul-Dec 2020 LOCAL	Expenditures Jul-Dec 2020 CENTRAL	Expenditures Jul-Dec 2020 TOTAL
1. Project Personnel				
1.1 Technical	180,000	2,033	76	2,109
1.2 Administrative/ support staff	75,000	-	-	-
Subtotal Project Personnel	**255,000**	**2,033**	**76**	**2,109**
2. Travel				
2.1 Local per diem	11,880	31	-	31
Subtotal Travel	**11,880**	**31**	**-**	**31**
3. Equipment				
3.1 Rent of vehicles	45,000	-	-	-
3.2 Furniture	5,000	-	-	-
3.3 Computer equipment	8,500	-	-	-
Subtotal Equipment	**58,500**	**-**	**-**	**-**
4. Project Office Running Costs				
4.1 Vehicle fuel costs	15,000	-	-	-
4.2 Vehicle maintenance costs	6,000	-	-	-
4.3 Office rent	30,000	-	-	-
4.4 Consumables - office supplies	9,000	-	-	-
4.5 Other services (tel/fax, electricity/heating, maintenance)	9,000	29	-	29
4.6 Financial services (bank guarantee costs etc.)	33,000	492	2	494
Subtotal Project Office Running Costs	**102,000**	**521**	**2**	**524**
5. Other Project Operational Costs				
5.1 Costs of conferences/seminars	14,000	-	-	-
5.2 Publications	10,000	593	-	593
5.3 Visibility actions	30,000	-	-	-
5.4 Translation, interpreters	12,000	65	724	788
5.5 Auditing costs	7,000	-	-	-
5.6 Evaluation costs	7,000	-	-	-
Subtotal Other Project Operational Costs	**80,000**	**657**	**724**	**1,381**
SUBTOTAL Personnel and Operational Costs	**507,380**	**3,243**	**802**	**4,045**
6. Project Activities / Outputs				
Outcome 1 - Strengthening DRM institutional, policy and legal framework in Albania				
Output 1.1: Capacity Assessment of DRR institutions carried out	125,000	-	57,535	57,535

Expenses	TOTAL Project Budget	Expenditures Jul-Dec 2020 LOCAL	Expenditures Jul-Dec 2020 CENTRAL	Expenditures Jul-Dec 2020 TOTAL
Output 1.2: National Civil Protection Agency (NCPA) supported in optimizing its functionality, role and capacities (phase I & II)				
Output 1.3: Recommendations for substantiating Civil Protection & DRR related legislation developed and submitted to GoA (phase I)				
Output 1.4: Establishment of National Platform for DRR supported				
Output 1.6: New building codes according to Eurocode developed	300,000	-	-	-
Output 1.7: Support national capacity development in risk assessments and emergency planning	32,000	-	-	-
Output 1.9: National DRR Strategic Document & Action Plan developed	320,000	-	-	-
Output 1.11: National Civil Emergency Plan (NCEP) formulated	200,000	-	-	-
SUBTOTAL Outcome 1	**977,000**	**-**	**57,535**	**57,535**
Outcome 2 - Strengthening disaster preparedness capacities at all levels				
Output 2.2: Biological risk management with focus on prevention and preparedness used for medium to longer-term risk monitoring and evaluation	50,000	-	-	-
Output 2.3: Local risk assessment for LGUs supported **Output 2.4:** Local DRR Strategies & Local Civil Emergency Plans (LCEP) supported (11 affected municipalities and then the remaining ones)	820,000	89,340	-	89,340
SUBTOTAL Outcome 2	**870,000**	**89,340**	**-**	**89,340**
Outcome 3 - Sustain Albanian's Regional & International Cooperation				
Output 3.1: Cooperation with EU Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM) and regional networking and knowledge sharing strengthened and sustained	32,000			
SUBTOTAL Outcome 3	**32,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Subtotal Project Activities / Outputs	**1,879,000**	**89,340**	**57,535**	**146,875**
7. Subtotal Project Costs	**2,386,380**	**92,583**	**58,337**	**150,920**
8. General Management Services	190,902	2,768	1,461	4,229
9. Total Project Costs	**2,577,282**	**95,351**	**59,798**	**155,149**