



Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION TO IMPROVE RESILIENCE OF COMMUNITIES AND INSTITUTIONS IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

ECHO AND PARTNERS WORK JOINTLY ON THE 4TH PHASE OF THE PROGRAMME IN GEORGIA

Saving lives and livelihoods by preparing for natural disasters is the core principle on which the European Union has based its Disaster Preparedness Programme "DIPECHO" since 1996.

The fourth phase of "Disaster Risk Reduction to Improve Resilience of Communities and Institutions in the South Caucasus" programme has been launched by DG European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and its partners: Save the Children, Georgian Red Cross Society, Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Deutschland (ASB), and Oxfam (with implementing partners BRIDGE and BSEA).

The programme, a regional initiative involving schools, communities and governments to participate in preparedness work in Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan, has promoted disaster risk reduction (DRR) approaches and education through actions aimed at protecting people's lives and livelihoods. In Georgia, the programme is supported by the State Security and Crisis Management Council, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, Emergency Management Agency under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and relevant regional and municipal local governments and aims at strengthening school, community and governmental resilience to natural disasters. Partners efforts contribute to local, national and global commitments related to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, including the 2015-2030 Sendai Framework.



Programme launch in Batumi



Rescue action simulation at the Black Sea during the launch event

The 4th phase of the program "Disaster Risk Reduction to Improve Resilience of Communities and Institutions in the South Caucasus" conducted by DG European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations in the South Caucasus is aimed at increasing resilience and reducing vulnerability of children and communities in areas prone to natural hazards. Program will be implemented in regions and communities in Georgia that are highly exposed to natural hazards and disaster risks – targeting primarily community members and local institutions with special emphasis on children, women and youth. Relevant stakeholders from central and local government will be engaged in project implementation to ensure policy development for disaster risk reduction and sustainability of program interventions. The program will be implemented in partnership with the government of Georgia, ministries and regional and local authorities- who have a role in decision making for coordinating disaster management and reduction activities.

The program envisages combined approach of community based activities - enhancement of local capacities to better prepare for and respond to disasters – and policy development work that aims to further develop and include disaster management and risk reduction in education and national security planning. The combined efforts of partners involved in the implementation of this project further strengthens the network of experiences and specific methodologies in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. The DIPECHO IV project has started in 2016 with projects ranging in duration from 13 to 18 months.

DIPECHO Partners in Georgia

Oxfam implementing partners in Georgia



Save the Children



OXFAM





SAVE THE CHILDREN – through the organization’s advocacy efforts and by facilitation of the Crisis Management Center an agreement was reached with the Emergency Management Agency to develop a module to train the Georgian Executive Government focal points on Disaster Risk Reduction with special emphasis on children with and without special needs in emergencies. In addition, Save the Children delivered an Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction training module to the Teachers Professional Development Center (TPDC) for future country wide scale up in order to increase knowledge of all teachers and children in Georgia on inclusive disaster risk reduction (IDRR) issues.

ARBEITER-SAMARITER-BUNDEDEUTSCHLAND (ASB)

Targeting the institutionalization of ASB Disability Inclusive DRR model for the preschool education sector country-wide, introductory meetings and workshops were held with 6 state Universities of Georgia and Kindergarten Union Representatives in Imereti, Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti Regions. In order to replicate the ASB’s iDRR (teaching materials and ToT module developed during the phase 3 "Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction for Especially Vulnerable Georgian Children in Kindergarten and Special Schools") in Turkmenistan, the Memorandum of Understanding between the UNICEF Turkmenistan and ASB Georgia was signed on June 2016.



OXFAM – and its implementing partners – BRIDGE and BSEA – work in Adjara, Mtskheta-Mtianeti and Kakheti. In Adjara, the recent heavy rains caused serious floods and landslides in several local villages. Thanks to the Oxfam disaster risk reduction programme and installed as its part small scale mitigation projects - mostly drainage channels - several communities in Keda, Khulo and Shuakhevi municipalities - Keda (Tibeta, Kharaula, Gegelidzeebi, Tskhmorisi), Shuakhevi (Chvana, Gomarduli) and Khulo (Begleti, Okruashvilebi, Vashlovani) were saved from floods. The rainy water was managed by the channels and there was no damage of road, agriculture lands nor houses in these villages.

GEORGIAN RED CROSS - Tbilisi Community Volunteers who received Training of Trainers (ToT) from the Georgia Red Cross Society (GRCS) certified First Aid (FA) trainers, established groups of students of Tbilisi public schools and are teaching them how to conduct basic first aid to the affected people. Thanks to these lessons several students helped people in need. The 12th grade student Nikoloz Gvenetadze conducted first aid to a friend who was hurt by hot water in his house, called an ambulance, as it was serious injury and needed involvement of the specialist doctors. Without the training the response would not have been possible. Tbilisi Community Volunteers will continue teaching first aid more students from the new school year.

