



Medical Units (phase II) (Sub-project Ardzagank)



Project title

**Medical Units (phase II)
(Sub-project Ardzagank)
[Domain Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)]**

General information

Region: Lori, Shirak, Gegharkunik and Syunik regions of Armenia
Duration: March 2012 – December 2013
Budget: CHF 787'500

Project partners

The project is a direct action implemented by SDC in collaboration with

- the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES)
- the Armenian Rescue Service (ARS) under the MES
- the Ministry of Health (MoH)

Project objectives

The project's overall goal is to save lives and to reduce disaster losses through the creation of additional medical onsite response capacities in the country. This shall be tackled through the following outcome: In case of an emergency situation Medical Units (MU¹) can be deployed to provide professional medical assistance, through efficient application of equipment and skills, and to support and complete the operations of other rescue teams.

The project provides equipment and training for medical staff and gives guidance for coordination to integrate the medical component into the existing rescue system.

Background

Armenia is highly prone to natural disasters, mainly earthquakes (e.g. Spitak 1988 with 25'000 deaths) but also landslides, floods, avalanches

¹ One MU comprises 4 groups of 5 persons (2 doctors and 3 paramedics) summing up 20 persons

and man-made disasters occur frequently, affecting seriously the population and challenging the responsible authorities. The government showed efforts to reduce its disaster risks; It signed the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), elaborated a national DRR strategy and established in 2005 the MES, responsible for all types of natural and man-made disasters, which includes the ARS with central and regional branches. The MoH is responsible for the healthcare sector, has to ensure the medical capacities in terms of equipment and training and to support and coordinate with the MES in emergency situations. SDC is engaged in DRR projects in Armenia since 2002 supporting the country's preparedness system, with the MES as a main project partner. Through a national wide project (Ardzagank 2006-2010) SDC supported the MES to build up a decentralized rescue system by providing training and equipment to the rescuers of the ARS. Under a previous pilot project (2009/10) in two selected most disaster prone regions (Tavush and Vayoz Dzor) 140 medical staffs, organized in 7 MU, were equipped and trained for medical assistance and efficient coordination with ARS teams. Further, a model to replicate the project in other districts was developed.

Project activities

SDC in close collaboration with its partners carries out the following activities:

- Organisation of 4 staff selection workshops with local authorities and heads of regional medical entities (based on a previous risk analysis to define 4 most disaster prone regions);
- Compilation of member lists of MU for official recognition by the regional authorities;
- Gender aware needs analysis for the definition of necessary equipment in accordance with international standards;
- Order of equipment, distribution to the project regions for storage in the regional rescue stations;
- Improvement of course curricula and manuals developed under the pilot;
- Organisation of regional training of trainers (ToT-) and local courses for theoretical inputs and practical exercises (introduction, consolidation and application phase), including tests and a final exam;
- Organisation of a complex practical coordination exercise for medical staff and regional rescuer teams.

Expected results (outputs)

The project has 3 main components establishment of MU, provision of equipment and training as described in its 3 outputs:

- 20 MUs in 4 regions are established and officially recognized;
- Essential equipment for 20 MUs is supplied;
- 400 persons (160 doctors and 240 paramedics) under 20 MUs are trained to provide rapid and professional onsite medical assistance.



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