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Swiss Cooperation Office
South Caucasus

Provision of Expertise to the National Crisis Management Center (CMC) under the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES)



Project title	Provision of Expertise to the National Crisis Management Center (CMC) under the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) [Domain Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)]
General information	Region: Armenia / Yerevan (with national coverage of the CMC) Duration: December 2011 - December 2012 Budget: CHF 191'300
Project partners	The project is a direct action implemented by SDC in collaboration with <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES)• the Armenian Rescue Service (ARS)• a senior Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) advisor• Experts in crisis management
Project objectives	The overall goal is to save lives and to reduce economic losses due to disasters through an improved national crisis management. This shall be reached through an improved performance of the national CMC. The project focuses on provision of expertise to the national CMC, which is the responsible institution under the MES. For an effective and needs based approach a DRR senior advisor will work in close collaboration with a working group of the MES. They are assisted by a group of national and international experts in specific fields of emergency management to provide support for the improvement of the CMC's existing response management at the strategic as well as at the operational level for the final benefit of the Armenian population.

Background

Armenia is highly prone to natural disasters, especially earthquakes (e.g. Spitak 1988 with 25'000 deaths and 517'000 homeless) but also landslides, floods, avalanches and man-made disasters such as traffic accidents occur frequently, which affect the population and challenge the responsible authorities. Having signed the Hyogo Framework for Action the Government is committed to reduce its risks. In 2005 the Ministry of Emergency Situations (MES) was set up, a national Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) framework was elaborated and a national DRR platform was established. The MES is responsible for all types of natural and man-made disasters and includes the Armenian Rescue Service (ARS) with regional branches. However, considering the high vulnerability, exposure and its resulting risks the country's current response system bears relevant gaps for an appropriate response management in case of a middle or big scale event.

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.

The national CMC under the MES is the main body responsible for the management of emergency situations. Based on a fruitful collaboration experience the MES approached SDC for expertise to strengthen its preparedness system through an improved national CMC.

Project activities

The DRR advisor in close collaboration with the MES working group and the assistance of specific experts will carry out the following project activities:

- Revision of the draft CMC concept in alignment with existing frameworks;
- Advice for an appropriate organizational and management structure of the CMC;
- Advice for improved operational procedures.
- Definition of required human resources and technical means for the operational sub-structures of the CMC;
- Engagement of external specialists with specific profiles for capacity building;
- Methodological advice for an improved Operational Emergency Plan, data management of the National Disaster Observatory and the emergency calls processing;
- Suggestions for improved coordination mechanisms with other DRR actors such as the national DRR platform and other ministries.

Expected results

The project focuses on 3 aspects: the basic structure of the CMC, its operational performance and its cooperation with other institutions:

- Function, role and structure of the CMC are revised;
- Operational structures of CMC are built up and technical solutions for effective operations are defined;
- Effective cooperation and information exchange schemes of CMC with other DRR stakeholders are established



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