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Swiss Cooperation Office
South Caucasus

Prevention and preparedness at local level (phase I)



Project title	Prevention and preparedness at local level (phase I) [Domain Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)]
General information	Region: 6 Municipalities of Racha-Lechkhumi and Samegrelo-Upper Svaneti region (mountainous regions of Georgia) Duration: October 2011 - December 2012 Budget: CHF 450'000
Project partners	The project is self implemented by SDC in close collaboration with the following partners: 6 Municipalities, 2 Governor's Offices, Emergency Management Department, Min. of Environment and Protection, Min. of Regional Development and Infrastructure, Caucasus Environmental NGO Network, Swiss Alpine Rescue Center
Project objectives	The overall goal of the project is to save lives and reduce economic losses due to natural disasters by supporting the prevention and preparedness efforts on the local level. The interventions shall enhance capacities of communities and local authorities of 6 selected municipalities in remote mountainous regions to cope with natural disasters and to increase their resilience regarding disaster risks. Outcome 1 (prevention/risk management): Local authorities and communities have a more comprehensive understanding of disaster risks and their capacities to reduce the risks by preventing natural disasters have increased. Outcome 2 (preparedness): More better equipped and trained teams are available for basic rescue and mountain rescue.
Background	Particularly remote and mountainous regions of Georgia are frequently affected by natural disasters such as floods, landslides, mudflows, avalanches and earthquakes causing considerable losses. All efforts aimed

at improving the situation of the local population are jeopardized when a disaster hits. Having signed the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) the Government of Georgia shows institutional commitment regarding DRR. However, achievements are neither comprehensive nor substantial and focus mainly on reconstruction and compensation after a disaster and on a centralized preparedness system. Particularly communities and local authorities of remote mountainous regions lack awareness, specific knowledge and funds for an appropriate disaster risk management. This implicates that prevention measures are barely carried out and people in emergency situations can't be rescued due to insufficient capacities in basic rescue and to the absence of a mountain rescue system. The present project bases on experience from past DRR projects, focus in a first phase on the local level and will pass over to a second phase with intervention focus on the regional level. The project is aligned with all five principles of the HFA with two outcomes one on prevention/risk management and one on preparedness.

Project activities

Activities outcome 1 (prevention and risk management):

- Participatory and gender sensitive risk assessments and awareness rising campaigns.
- Hardware mitigation/risk reduction measures: support for priority selection, budget estimation, design, planning, implementation, maintenance works and cost-benefit analysis.
- Strengthening linkages among stakeholders: Organisation of joint workshops and meetings with local, regional and central level DRR stakeholders, facilitation of contacts.

Activities outcome 2 (preparedness):

- Needs assessment, provision of equipment and training for basic and mountain rescue and communication.

Expected results (outputs)

The final beneficiary of the project is the population of the project area representing roughly 119'000 persons.

By the end of the project the following results are expected:

- Local authorities and communities know the risks of natural disasters and use appropriate tools to manage and plan necessary (prevention) measures to reduce risks
- Local authorities are better linked to regional and central level and enabled to lobby for their problems and needs in DRR
- Engineering prevention measures implemented and according know-how is transferred to local stakeholders
- 4 fire fighter /rescuer stations are trained and equipped for basic rescue
- 4 municipalities have improved their communication system for emergency situations
- Selected rescuers from municipal, regional and central level are equipped and trained for mountain rescue



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