



Romania

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Capacity Development for Crisis Situations

Year after year, countries' vulnerability and risk level are amplified by major factors such as global climatic changes and increase in population density. In 2005, Romania was hit by several record-breaking floods that affected Western, Southern and Eastern regions. The disaster was considered to be the most devastating in 50 years. The floods affected 31 out of 41 counties, and total losses were estimated to be more than 1,500 million EUR. Significant governmental resources were made available for recovery, supplemented by international aid and funds provided by NGOs and the private sector.



Banat region under waters, 2005 (source: www.inundatii.go.ro)

In response to Government's request for assistance, UNDP developed, in close partnership with the Ministry of Administration and Interior, a project "Strengthening Romanian Government's capacity to deal with difficult situations generated by natural disasters – Capacity Development for Crisis Situation (CDCS)". The project, benefiting from UNDP Bureau for Crises Prevention and Recovery funding, was publicly launched on 17 April 2006, in the presence of Mr. Victor Paul Dobre, State Secretary, the Ministry of Administration and Interior (MAI), Ms. Soknan Han Jung, UNDP Resident Representative / UN Resident Coordinator, officials from the Romanian Inspectorate General for Emergency Situations (IGES) and media representatives.

The current project contributes towards achieving the established objectives and coping with the identified needs, through:

- Strengthening of operational integration of former firemen and civil protection structures into the unified institution – Inspectorate General for Emergency Situations
- Refurbishment, adequate equipping and achievement of fully operational state for 3 emergency training centers
- Training curricula and plans approved by relevant bodies together with professional certification for emergency response personnel. Establishment of "expert in management of emergency situations" as a profession recognized by the Romanian legislation.
- Basic information handbook of managing emergency situations drafted, printed and distributed.
- Refurbishment of a socio-economic establishment affected by floods.
- Improvement of intervention equipment for the existing Search and Rescue Teams.

Accomplishment of the envisaged project activities will result in reduction of vulnerability of groups exposed to natural risk sources, and enhancement of Romanian Government's capacity to deal with difficult situations generated by natural disasters, thus providing the basis for an efficient emergency response system.



Bgd.Gral. Constantin Zamfir (IGSU), State Secretary Victor Paul Dobre (MAI), UNDP RR / UN RC Soknan Han Jung, and Head of Socio-Economic Section Florin Banateanu answering questions from the media

In her statement, Ms. Han Jung reiterated the full support of the United Nations System in Romania and the Office of the Resident Coordinator to the Romanian Government, the local and central authorities in their efforts to cope with the unprecedented situation created by floods. Equally, in the context of recent developments, with the Danube river rising rapidly, special emphasis was placed on the necessity to continue this work and assist Romania in this critical area, where trained professionals should be able to intervene in real time and bring relief to those in need.

For more information, please contact UNDP Romania at ujp.cdcs@undp.ro