

UN-OCHA Disaster Preparedness Efforts in SEE

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Disaster context in SEE

- Limited national and UN system resources
- Preparedness/Mitigation – low priority
- Lack of funding/focus on preparedness
- Competing interest among stakeholders
- Need to enhance coordination in preparedness
- Lack of clarity and means for recovery and transition
- Threat to human security and development
- Much can be done to protect people better
- **Government is main coordinator**

Emerging coordination trends

- Proliferation of initiatives and huge number of actors
- Dialogue with European Union on on-site coordination
- More interaction between the UN and Red Cross/Crescent Movement and NGO community
- Closer ties between UNDP and OCHA as well as with UN agencies at headquarters and regional levels
- Development of sectoral clusters, predictable funding and better coordination based on the **Humanitarian Response Review**

Humanitarian Response Review 2006 led by UN USG for Humanitarian Affairs

- Ongoing general momentum for the UN reform
- System upgrade required in 3 key areas: response capacity, predictable funding, enhanced coordination
- Meet the basic needs of affected people in a timely manner

Central Emergency Revolving Fund

- Currently volume of USD 50 million as a loan facility
- Adding a grant facility
- Increase volume to USD 500 million
- UN funds, programmes, agencies and IOM eligible
- Administered by OCHA
- Quick reimbursement
- Approved by GA

Emergency Revolving Fund

- Under the UN Humanitarian/Resident Coordinator direction
- Flexible trust fund at the field level
- To meet critical gaps of NGOs and operating partners of the UN
- Part of a new CAP arrangements
- 7% of the CAP volume

Strengthening coordination

- Enhance the UN Resident Coordinator system
- Improve selection procedures for the UN RC
- Strengthen training
- Increased authority for the UN RC for
 - a) Prioritisation
 - b) Needs mapping
 - c) Management of pooled Funding and the ERF

Cluster Leads

- Emergency shelter IFRC
 - Camp management and coord. IOM
 - Health WHO
 - Nutrition and feeding UNICEF
 - Water and sanitation UNICEF
- Service provision:**
- Logistics WFP
 - Telecommunications OCHA, WFP, UNICEF

Risk management approach – three main methods of protecting vulnerable communities against disaster impact:

- Mitigation – any action to minimize the impact of a potential disaster
- Preparedness – specific measures taken before a disaster strikes (warnings, precautions, facilitation of rapid and adequate response)
- Response – actions in response to disaster

Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015

- One of the 5 priorities for action is:
**strengthening of disaster preparedness for
effective disaster response**



OCHA strategic priorities in disaster management

- Response coordination (synergies, networks, procedures, tools, stand-by)
- Preparedness including EW (assessment of capabilities, contingency planning, norms)
- Advocacy
- Early recovery/Transition

UN-OCHA recent efforts in SEE supporting disaster preparedness

- Disaster preparedness workshop in Serbia and Montenegro, 2006
- Risk assessment workshop, Croatia, 2004
- UN-DMTP workshop, Serbia and Montenegro, 2004
- UN-DMTP workshop, Macedonia, 2003
- Regional DMTP for Romania, Moldova, Ukraine, 2003

UN-OCHA recent efforts in SEE supporting disaster preparedness /continuation/

- Regional DMTP workshop for all SEE countries, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2002
- DMTP workshop in Kosovo, 2002
- Joint Hellenic-Turkish Disaster Response Unit, Ratification completed 2005, INSARAG training planned for 2006
- General CmCoord training, Slovenia 2005

OCHA possible inputs for disaster preparedness joint efforts in SEE

- UN methodology, practical experience and skills in contingency planning (CP)
- Development of CP working tools
- Assessment of national disaster response and preparedness capacities
- Resource person(s) for preparedness workshops
- INSARAG training, support to simulations

Lessons learned

- Disasters are issues of good governance
- Disaster stakeholders too fragmented
- Disaster risk management requires multidisciplinary partnerships
- Better interdisciplinary networking needed
- Involvement of civil society and private sector to be increased
- Prevention/Preparedness is better than cure