Midterm Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Republic of Tajikistan

2022
Acknowledgments

This document is the end product of collaborative work among the government and non-governmental stakeholders on the Midterm Review of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Republic of Tajikistan, facilitated with the technical assistance from the United Nations Development Programme in Tajikistan (UNDP) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

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The Committee for Emergency Situations and Civil Defense would also like to acknowledge the substantive contribution of the following development partners in this review: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation; United States Agency for International Development; Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe; Aga Khan Agency for Habitat; UN Women; United Nations Population Fund; UN Office on Drugs and Crime; United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, United Nations Development Programme, and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. We would like to thank all the other respondents to the questionnaire and other review participants, who took their time to share their feedbacks and provide inputs.

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<td>ADB</td>
<td>Asian Development Bank</td>
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<td>CD</td>
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<td>CWFA</td>
<td>Committee for Women and Family Affairs</td>
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<td>GBAO</td>
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<td>PPACC</td>
<td>Pilot Programme on Adaptation to Climate Change</td>
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<td>RT</td>
<td>Republic of Tajikistan</td>
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<td>SF</td>
<td>Sendai Framework</td>
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<td>SAR</td>
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1. Introduction

Tajikistan is one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change in the Europe and Central Asia region. 93% of the territory of Tajikistan are mountains, and only 7% are plains. The population is 10 million and there is only 0.06 ha of irrigated land per inhabitant.

Over the past decades, the number of disasters in the country has increased significantly. Disasters have caused enormous socio-economic and environmental damage, which in turn hinders the sustainable development of the country and the entire region.

Tajikistan is frequently affected by disasters such as earthquakes, floods, mudflows, landslides, mudflows, droughts, avalanches, strong winds, insect infestations, outbreaks of infectious diseases, etc.

Also in recent years there has been an active melting of glaciers, an increase in average annual temperatures, a change in precipitation, more frequent periods with extreme weather conditions (such as hail, snowfall, drought).

Coronavirus infection (COVID-19) has significantly affected the socio-economic situation in the country, including the impact of the pandemic on climate change and disaster risk reduction initiatives. This unprecedented situation underscored the importance of risk mitigation and proper planning of the way forward, as well as exploring new opportunities for cooperation in this area.

According to the data from the Committee for Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, approximately 3,460 disasters occurred in the country during 1997–2018, with a total economic loss of 589 million USD.¹

Approximately 380 disasters occurred between 2015 and 2021. On average, there was one disaster every six days. 175 people died and the economic damage amounted to 108 million USD.

Disasters have a negative impact and create obstacles to the further socio-economic development of the country. In this regard, a number of comprehensive measures have been taken in Tajikistan in order to reduce the risk of disasters.


Based on the recommendations of the Hyogo Framework Program, the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction of the Republic of Tajikistan was

¹ Excluding inflation.
established under the State Commission on Emergency Situations by the Government Decree № 98 of March 1, 2012. This platform includes representatives of various ministries and agencies (health and social protection, agriculture, finance, energy and water resources, transport, industry and new technologies, environmental protection, etc.). Having among its objectives the creation of mechanisms for disaster risk reduction and introduction of disaster risk reduction issues into public and private sector activities and investment projects, the National Platform is a structure for planning and coordinating disaster risk reduction activities as well as an additional platform for dialogue with REACT partners.2.

In addition, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan has taken effective measures to ensure sustainable development based on the priority areas and global goals of the Sendai Framework for 2015-2030. By the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan dated December 29, 2018, the “National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction for 2019–2030” was approved.

Given the high vulnerability of Tajikistan to climate change and disasters, the country, along with the National Strategy for DRR, is also implementing the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030, which outlines priorities and key areas of action.

These two strategic documents were developed taking into account the objectives defined in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for 2015-2030 and the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030.

Effective disaster risk management requires inter-sectoral coordination and the development and implementation of disaster risk management policies at the highest level. These requirements formed the basis for the designation of a National Coordinator for DRR.

In this regard, in 2018, the Government of Tajikistan appointed the Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan as a coordinator for disaster risk management. This provides an opportunity to actively involve the DRR Coordinator in strengthening disaster risk management systems and platforms in the country.

The Government of Tajikistan annually allocates budgetary and extrabudgetary funds for the prevention and elimination of the consequences of disasters. A significant part of these funds is directed to the resettlement of the affected population, the provision of material assistance to them, as well as to bank protection works. A great effort is carried out to study and monitor the condition and situation of potentially dangerous objects - Lake Sarez, glaciers and radiation tailings of the country.

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2 REACT - Rapid Assessment and Coordination Team, established by the UN Office for Humanitarian Affairs
This document provides information on the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (SFDRR) in the Republic of Tajikistan, in accordance with the request of the UN General Assembly to conduct a SFMTR\(^3\) and the adoption of resolution A / RES /76/204 dated December 17, 2021.\(^4\)

The document consists of an overview of the implementation process of the Sendai Framework, achievements, best practices, opportunities, challenges, lessons learned and recommendations for the period up to 2030.

2. Methodology and Process

The Committee for Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, acting as the secretariat of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, led this review. The review was conducted with the support of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), as well as with the input of national agencies, international organizations, diplomatic missions and the private sector working in the field of disaster risk reduction and development in Tajikistan.

Relevant government and international organizations working in all sectors, as well as organizations working with children, youth, women, and people with disabilities were involved in the information gathering process.

Great assistance was provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the collection of information from government agencies, members of the National Platform for DRR in data refinement, as well as international and non-governmental organizations.

The data provided in questionnaires from various partners were used the most. To clarify the information, separate consultations were held by phone or online meetings with relevant partners. Data from the online monitoring platform of the Sendai Framework was used in the preparation of this report. Information from strategic documents and data from the official websites of state and international agencies have also been used.

In order to ensure objectivity and complete information about the achievements of Tajikistan in the implementation of the Sendai Framework, individual meetings were held with many key partners. Thus, with the assistance of the majority of stakeholders, the necessary information was collected to conduct the analysis and complete the report.

\(^3\) UNGA Resolution /76/204 of December 17, 2021.

\(^4\) Report of the Secretary General for 2021 (A/76/240)
3. Retrospective Review

3.1 Progress towards the Outcome and Goal

Environment, climate change and disaster risk management are important issues of sustainable development and are considered by the Government of Tajikistan as priority areas for sustainable development of the country.

Considering the country's vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters, the Republic of Tajikistan is actively and consistently promoting the issues of disaster risk reduction. Pursuant to the Paris Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Tajikistan is strengthening cooperation with local, regional and international organizations in the field of disaster reduction. Over the past seven years, the understanding of the population about the types of disaster risks and their consequences has significantly changed.

In order to accelerate the achievement of the goals set in the Sendai Framework, Tajikistan has significantly increased its disaster risk reduction capacity in recent years. As part of these efforts, in 2018 Tajikistan adopted the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction for 2019-2030, and in 2019 the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030 was adopted.

Under the leadership of the DRR National Platform, a regular monitoring and evaluation process is carried out, which contributes to the implementation of the rolling mid-term subprograms and long-term goals set out in the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction for 2019-2030.

A Mid-Term Program for the Protection of the Population and Territory for 2022-2027 has been developed to implement the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Mid-Term Program for 2022-2027 is developed based on the key priorities and targets of the National Strategy, taking into account the new approaches of the Sendai Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals until 2030, aimed at shifting the focus from disaster management to disaster risk management, increasing the role of gender and integration of private sector participation into policies.

The program defines the goals, objectives and areas of action, as well as mechanisms for its implementation for the mid-term period up to 2027. The
goal of the program is to strengthen and develop national capacity to reduce existing and prevent new risks of disasters.

An Action Plan for the period 2022-2024 has also been developed, which aims to improve the regulatory framework, institutional mechanisms, development of new methodological approaches to disaster risk management, creation of a monitoring and evaluation model capable of laying a solid foundation for achieving the goals and objectives of the National Strategy.

Priority is focused on strengthening disaster risk reduction measures, increasing population resilience and strengthening infrastructure in the context of integration of climate change adaptation, particularly at local level, development and implementation of science-based methodologies and tools to account for disaster losses by gender, age, disability and other statistical information, improving disaster risk modeling, assessment, mapping and monitoring and early warning systems, covering different types of hazards.

It should be noted that the Mid-Term Development Program of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2020-2023 and the District Development Plans included the section “Environment, climate change and disaster risk reduction”. These actions and the commitment of the Government of Tajikistan to the implementation of the Sendai Framework ensure the mobilization of local resources and encourage the strengthening of international partnerships to achieve sustainable development taking into account risks.

Awareness-raising campaign are a vital element of any comprehensive disaster risk reduction strategy. In this regard, with the Government efforts and the increased awareness and education activities of relevant state agencies, development partners and civil society organizations (CSOs), public awareness and understanding of the problems and consequences of disasters has greatly improved. By raising awareness of disasters and taking measures for disaster risk management, the number of people affected has significantly decreased, the quality of life has also changed, the well-being and the level of health care has increased.

Moreover, Tajikistan ensures the participation of government officials in various platforms on disaster risk reduction at national, international and global levels, and holds all kinds of high-level events within the country. Examples include regional and ministerial conferences and forums on DRR, and conferences on the implementation of the Water Action Decade.

Expected Result: Substantial reduction of disaster risk and disaster losses in terms of loss of life, livelihoods and health, and adverse effects on the economic, physical, social, cultural, and environmental assets of people, businesses, communities and countries.
In March 2017, the Central Asia Regional Meeting of the Heads of Emergency Services on Disaster Risk Reduction Agencies was held in Dushanbe. As a result of this meeting, a final document was signed on the implementation of the 2015 Ashgabat Declaration and the integration of the recommendation of Sendai Framework in Central Asian countries.

In May 2017, a delegation from Tajikistan participated in the conference of the Global Platform for DRR, which took place in Cancun, Mexico. During this conference, a pre-conference session on ecosystem protection and sustainable agriculture was chaired by Rustam Nazarzoda, Chairman of the Committee for Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of Tajikistan with participation of delegations from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Economic Cooperation Organization, Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction in Almaty (CESDRRR) and other stakeholders. During the conference, the delegations were briefed on the progress of the Regional Plan for DRR Sendai Framework.

In July 2018, the delegation of Tajikistan took part in the Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, where the issues of DRR management, private sector engagement, strengthening disaster resilient infrastructure, and urban resilience were discussed.

At the European Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR), which took place in Rome, Italy, in November 2018, the Chairman of the CoES presented the experience of Tajikistan in the field of DRR and inclusiveness.

The sixth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Geneva from 13 to 17 May 2019. It should be noted that Tajikistan was one of the few countries represented by a high-level government delegation, that is, at the level of the Deputy Prime Minister - Coordinator for DRR, which confirmed the commitment of the Government of Tajikistan to the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR. This level of involvement was also noted by the organizers and participants of the meeting.

On August 21, 2019, the Regional Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction for implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was held in Dushanbe. The conference was attended by the Ms. Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Ms. Asako Okai, UN Assistant Secretary-General Director of UNDP’s Crisis Bureau, heads and representatives of ministries and departments authorized in the field of prevention and response to emergency situations of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Iran, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, China, India,
Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, as well as representatives of diplomatic missions, donor organizations and UN agencies.

As a result of this conference, the Dushanbe Resolution on Disaster Risk Reduction was adopted, which was presented by the Government of Tajikistan at the European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR) in Italy in November 2018.

Within the framework of this conference, a cross border Agreement on cooperation in the field of prevention and elimination of consequences of disasters between the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of Tajikistan was also signed.

On November 4-5, 2021 in Tashkent at the Regional Forum - Meeting of the Heads of Emergency Agencies of Central Asian countries the first regional strategy for cooperation of Central Asian countries in disaster risk reduction for 2022-2030 was approved, and Tajikistan actively participated in its development. On the initiative of the Chairman of CoES, Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda, the parties agreed to hold the next Forum in 2022 in Dushanbe.

On 24-26 November 2021 at the European Forum on DRR in Matosinhos, Portugal, the delegation of the Republic of Tajikistan presented the effective measures taken by the country to ensure sustainable development based on the priorities of the Sendai Framework. Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda, Chairman of the CoES, noted that one of the important activities is to strengthen and increase the effectiveness of interaction with neighbors to prevent transboundary emergencies.

At the sites of the Global Platform, which was held in Indonesian Bali on May 23-28, 2022, Tajikistan, expressing its commitment to coherence in the field of disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and climate change, noted that in the implementation of these projects, the country adheres to the direction of using the ecosystem approach, integrating aspects of DRR and climate change adaptation into development programs that are designed to contribute to the sustainable development of the country.

The national statement stressed that exploiting the synergies between the Mid-Term Reviews of the Water Action Decade of the Sendai Framework, which will end in 2023, will provide an opportunity to identify adjustments that promote risk-informed development in the sustainable management of water resources and associated ecosystems, and also to converge lessons and best practices in disaster risk management, integrated water resources management and climate adaptation.
On October 4-6, 2022 a Regional Forum - Meeting of the Heads of Emergency Authorities of Central Asian Countries: Strengthening Resilience of the Central Asian Region to Disasters was held in Dushanbe in the framework of implementation of recommendations of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. The Regional Forum was attended by Mr. Sulaimon Ziyozoda, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan and chaired by Mr. Rustam Nazarzoda, Chairman of the CoES Tajikistan. The Forum, which gathered an unprecedented number of stakeholders, was attended by ministers and representatives of ministries and agencies authorized in the field of disaster management of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Head of Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Mr. Octavian Bivol, EU Special Representative for Central Asia Ms. Teri Hakala, as well as representatives of diplomatic missions, donor organizations and UN agencies.

Within the framework of the Forum, the participants discussed measures to strengthen regional cooperation and increase the resilience of Central Asian countries to disasters, as well as the prospects for introducing a regional early warning system and information and communication technologies in the field of DRR in the region. The participants paid attention to the issues of glaciers melting, threats of outburst of high-mountain lakes, low water, seismic safety, environmental problems, including measures to mitigate the consequences of the drying up of the Aral Sea.

The adoption following the results of the Forum of the Regulations on the Regional System for Early Warning and Mutual Information on the Threat and Emergencies, as well as the Protocol of Intentions on the Integration of Earthquake Early Warning Systems became evidence of the aspirations of the participating countries to implement the global tasks of the DRR Sendai Framework and respond to the call of the seventh session of the UN Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction on the need to ensure that the entire population of the Earth has access to an early warning system.

Tajikistan adheres to the position that the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders in the work of forums, conferences, various thematic sessions, as well as holding bilateral meetings, contribute to the further development of a constructive dialogue, the exchange of information and experience, and the strengthening of regional cooperation in the field of disaster risk reduction. In this context, it should also be noted that the Government of Tajikistan, committed to continue providing a platform for policy dialogue, partnership and action, is organizing, with the support of the United Nations, high-level
international conferences throughout the Water Action Decade, thus establishing the so-called “Dushanbe Water Process”.5

The biennial conferences under the Dushanbe Water Process provide timely and valuable opportunities to create an enabling environment and platform for promotion of action, partnership and policy dialogue, review the implementation of the Decade, as well as to promote interlinkages with and contribute to other relevant processes.

The First **High-level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028**, was held in Dushanbe on 20-21 June 2018.

A Second **High-level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028** entitled “Catalyzing water action and partnership at the local, national, regional and global levels”, was held by the Government of Tajikistan in cooperation with the United Nations and other partners from June 6 to 8, 2022 in Dushanbe.

The Conference focused on how governments, the United Nations and its entities, other international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, the private sector, civil society organizations, academia, communities, local governments and other stakeholders can catalyze water action and partnerships to contribute to the implementation of water-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Climate Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development and the New Urban Agenda at all levels, while supporting the global response to the COVID-19 crisis.

It is noteworthy that in the Final Declaration of the Conference, among the four main actions for which the participants expressed their readiness, a separate item was “Building synergy between water resources, the environment, climate change and disaster risk reduction”. Among them, the participants expressed their determination to:

- Develop and implement sustainable institutions and policies, including improved coordination and management of water-related disasters and other risks, taking into account the impact of climate change and biodiversity loss on shared global resources;

5 [https://dushanbewaterprocess.org/](https://dushanbewaterprocess.org/)
- Recognize and put into practice the important role that enhancing the health of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, forests, and soils can play as natural solutions or ecosystem approaches in promoting a circular and green economy and as a cost-effective complement to gray infrastructure in improving environmentally sustainable land and water management, in reducing risks.

- Support the provision and mobilization of financial resources, including climate finance, as well as voluntary technology development and transfer on mutually agreed terms, capacity building, and technical assistance for water-related sustainability.

- Recognize that a systematic and sound knowledge base is needed to understand disaster risk factors and their potential impacts to achieve SDG 6 and other water-related SDGs, to strengthen multi-hazard risk forecasting and management, to invest in disaster risk prevention and reduction systems, early warning and improved infrastructure resilience...

The outcomes of the Conference were presented at the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which was held on 13 June 2022 at the UN Headquarters.

It should be noted that being the initiator of most of the UN General Assembly Resolutions on water issues, Tajikistan actively promotes water issues on the global agenda. In this context, the Government of Tajikistan, in collaboration with the UN and other international organizations, has held the following important international events on water issues:

The **International Fresh Water Forum**, 29 August – 1 September 2003, Dushanbe;

The **International Conference on Regional Cooperation in Trans-Boundary River Basins**, 30 May – 1 June 2005, Dushanbe;

The **International Conference on Water-Related Disasters Reduction**, 27-29 June 2008, Dushanbe;

The **High-Level International Conference on midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action “Water for Life”**, 2005-2015, 8-10 June 2010, Dushanbe;
The Preparatory conference «Towards the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20): Water cooperation», 19-20 October 2011, Dushanbe;

The High-Level International Conference on Water Cooperation, 20-21 August 2013, Dushanbe;


The High-Level Symposium on SDG 6 and Targets: Ensuring that No One is Left Behind in Access to Water and Sanitation, 9-10 August 2016, Dushanbe;


In parallel, with the support of UN agencies and other partners, a number of study tours were organized outside the country, improving the experience and knowledge of local specialists and local government representatives on the integration of effective disaster risk management and alternative approaches.

Compared to previous years, Tajikistan, together with development partners, has strengthened its capacity to implement disaster risk reduction programs, and tangible progress has been made in saving lives and protecting livelihoods through investments in disaster preparedness and response activities. At the same time, new threats and dangers are emerging, for instance, biological and social hazards (epidemics, pandemics, epizootics), the consequences of climate change, environmental pollution, and the increasing threat of man-made disasters, which also require coordinated and planned joint actions.

3.2 Progress in Risk Assessment, Information and Understanding

Tajikistan has established an effective system for managing measures to prevent and eliminate the consequences of disasters. There is a State Commission for Emergency Situations. The Commission unites all services for the prevention and response to emergencies - the main ministries and departments of the country, evacuation commissions and commissions for ensuring the sustainability of economic facilities.

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Activities are carried out to assess the hazard and risk of disasters in the territory of Tajikistan. The most vulnerable areas of the territory are identified, where measures for the prevention of possible emergencies and preparation for them are carried out.

The Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, together with the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense, the Main Department of Geology, and the Institute of Geology, Earthquake Engineering and Seismology of Tajikistan are conducting a detailed hazard, vulnerability and risk assessment at the village level in all regions of the country. The implementing partners develop risk maps by collecting information with local communities and through field assessments conducted by geologists and engineers. The developed maps are easy to understand, even for those without special education. These maps are distributed to all households in the locality during community disaster warning and preparedness workshops. The results of the assessment for all villages have been submitted and are available at the Main Department of Geology under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Also given the importance of integrating disaster risk assessment issues into development planning processes, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) of Tajikistan launched two projects "Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction and Response Capacity" and "Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance in Tajikistan" with to support the Government of Tajikistan in conducting a nationwide disaster risk assessment. As part of these projects, the Geoinformatics Center of the Asian Institute of Technology (GIC- AIT) and the Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation of the University of Twente (ITC-UT) of the Netherlands, conducted a multi-hazard risk assessment in 58 districts of Tajikistan.

The main objective of this assignment was to assess the vulnerability of communities and infrastructure to natural hazards, determine their degree of exposure to future hazardous events and develop risk profiles as a basis for development planning processes for all districts of Tajikistan. This assignment covered seven major hazards that are prevalent in Tajikistan, including flood, mudflow, earthquake, drought, windstorm, landslide, and snow avalanche. National institutions and experts were engaged in the process to enhance the national capacities for risk assessment and dynamic mapping.

Based on this assessment, in 2021, UNDP, together with the Committee for Emergency Situations and Civil Defense, launched the first National Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment platform of Tajikistan.
The visual online platform is based on the national scale database of hazards and risk in Tajikistan generated between 2018 and 2020 and is available on the following website: https://riskinfo.tj.

This initiative was conducted with the financial support of the Government of Japan and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

The Committee on Emergency Situations and Civil Defense, with the support of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, is actively pursuing the implementation of the DesInventar-Sendai system for systematic collection, documentation and analysis of data related to disaster losses. This system will improve data collection and analysis for national reports on the Sendai Framework and the implementation of the 2015-2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The database organized based on DesInventar-Sendai will allow investment planning and forecasting for development based on trend analysis of the overall risk profile.

In order to ensure the resilience of cities and human settlements, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, within the framework of the project "Strengthening disaster resilience and accelerating the implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Central Asia", funded by the European Union, is interacting with the capitals of countries in the region to support local authorities in reducing risks and promoting a holistic and systemic approach to urban resilience. The participation of Central Asian capitals in the MCR2030 initiative can contribute to the implementation of this project, as cities that join MCR2030 will have access to partner tools and resources to move along the sustainability roadmap. As a flagship and policy priority for UNDDR, the Local Resilience Program and MCR2030 provide an opportunity to accelerate resilience building in capital cities. This project directly contributes to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG11) and other global frameworks, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement and the New Urban Agenda in the region.

In August 2021, the city of Dushanbe joined the Global Campaign "Making Cities Resilient - 2030" (MCR-2030).

As part of its project in Central Asia and as part of Dushanbe's participation in the MCR2030 initiative, UNDRR is working with the city of Dushanbe to develop a disaster resilience strategy and action plan for the capital, including pandemic risk and biohazards. The strategy development and action planning process will be based on a series of self-assessments: a preliminary scorecard assessment, a public health sustainability scorecard (also called the Public Health
Supplement), and a detailed scorecard assessment. These assessments are carried out by the Technical Working Group (TWG) established by the City Mayor, coordinated by the City Coordinator and supported by the UNDRR Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia.

The Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH) is also actively working in this direction in the city of Khorog.

On August 19, 2021 AKAH signed a strategic partnership agreement with the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan’s Committee of Architecture and Construction that will include measures for increased hazard mitigation, strategic densification and climate change adaptation for a city of 31,000 residents.

A key component of the agreement is to update the 2010 Khorog Town Plan to include resilience components, part of a collaboration between the Committee of Architecture, UN-Habitat, AKAH and the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO).

The Resilient Khorog Town Plan is linked to an investment plan. The aim is to provide a model for resilient town plans in high mountain settlements, which can be replicated across Tajikistan, or in other parts of Central Asia.

The collaboration supports the Committee of Architecture in the areas of sustainable urban planning, resilience projects and rural planning. The Agreement is signed under the Khorog Urban Resilience Programme, a five-year partnership between the Government of Tajikistan, the international community and the people of Khorog to build long-term resilience for Khorog and for the people of Tajikistan.

In parallel, in all regions of Tajikistan, in order to increase the knowledge and awareness of the population (including women and children, and people with disabilities) about disasters and their proper behavior during emergencies, according to the developed plans, educational and methodological campaigns, trainings, seminars, and drills are held.

Special training and education programs have been developed for secondary school students, students of higher educational institutions, commanding staff, as well as workers and employees of the Republic of Tajikistan on the basics of emergency preparedness and civil defense.
In order to increase the participation of the private sector in disaster risk management, thematic meetings and events are held together with development partners. Representatives of the private sector and government agencies are unanimous in their opinion that most of the damage from natural disasters falls on the private sector. Increasing private sector involvement in disaster risk management also recognizes that businesses often make a significant contribution to disaster relief and recovery. This participation must be recognized and included as part of the overall effort to reduce the impact of disasters.

As part of the integration of private sector into disaster risk governance process and to ensure the safety of tourists from natural disasters in Tajikistan, UNDP in partnership with the CoES and Committee of Tourism Development, organized a several meetings with the representatives of the tourism companies, CoES Search and Rescue Team and local authorities.

The meetings focused on linking the tourism sector into disaster risk management, where disasters create a negative context for the tourism industry. Participants were also advised on the activities of CoES Search and Rescue teams. In the course of discussions, the participants determined further steps on securing tourism from disasters in Tajikistan. These included the decision to train tour operators in the full range of emergency procedures.

Joint projects with development partners, NGOs to involve women, youth and people with disabilities in DRR preparedness and response processes have significantly increased the number of joint activities after 2015.

In order to increase the capacity of government agencies and civil society organizations, representatives of women’s groups and their full participation in disaster risk management, post-2015 activities are being implemented with the assistance of UN Women and other international organizations to raise public awareness, especially women, people with disabilities and other vulnerable
groups and their active involvement in disaster risk management decision-making processes.

For example, within the framework of the component of the UN-Women project “Capacity building of national partners, representatives of women’s groups, as well as women activists”, trainings on "Mainstreaming Gender in Disaster Risk Management" were conducted for representatives of local executive authorities, district emergency departments, women and family affairs sectors, jamoats (sub-districts), public associations, women’s groups and women leaders, who were then actively involved in plan development and implementing the adopted tasks.

To expand the coverage of involving various groups of the population in DRR processes in 2017, in partnership with UN Women, 20 trainers were trained from among the employees of the CoES, the Committee on Women and Family Affairs, gender experts, representatives of non-governmental organizations from different regions of the country for further work with population and state agencies on the ground to promote DRR issues.

During the development of the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction for 2019-2030, UN-Women specialists in Tajikistan made a great contribution, as a result of which gender-sensitive provisions were included in almost all sections of the strategy.

It should also be noted that after 2015, the country has become more active in discussing comprehensive measures for disaster risk reduction through the prism of adaptation to climate change, including gender mainstreaming. The National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030 is a stimulating factor. In particular, on gender aspects of DRR and water issues, two Women’s Water Sessions (2018, 2022) were held within the framework of two High-Level International Conferences on the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" in Dushanbe.

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation is currently conducting a study on gender and DRR for Central Asia, with a particular focus on Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. The results of this study will be available in April 2023.

To implement measures to raise public awareness, the Committee on Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, together with the Agency for Hydrometeorology, regularly distribute information through television and radio on possible disaster risks and on recommendations for behavior in emergency situations.

Joint outreach events are held in the districts, sub-district on topical issues of DRR by government agencies and public organizations. At the sub-district level, the response and early warning teams have become more active.

Development partners implement projects to increase media capacity. For effective coverage of environmental and natural resource issues in Central Asia, regional workshops on "Disaster risk reduction for media professionals in
Central Asia" were held. There are also various competitions and quizzes for the local population on disaster risk reduction. This event is aimed at strengthening the capacity of stakeholders for DRR, increasing the participation of communities and media representatives in planning and informing stakeholders for disaster risk reduction at the local level, as well as strengthening cross-border cooperation on DRR at all levels.

**The International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR)** is an opportunity to celebrate the progress made in preventing and reducing the risk of disasters and the loss of lives, livelihoods, economies and basic infrastructure, in line with the international agreement to reduce global disaster risk and loss. Tajikistan, along with other countries, has been actively organizing various events to commemorate this day for a number of years.

IDRR is officially celebrated worldwide on October 13, but Tajikistan holds celebrations a week before and up to a week every year, dedicating each year to a specific Sendai Framework goal.

According to the plan developed by the CoES Tajikistan together with international organizations and state agencies, meetings, round tables, conferences, workshops, exhibitions, television programs, radio quizzes, and other events are held annually for one week in all parts of the country.

In the center of Dushanbe, video clips dedicated to the IDRR are broadcasted on the billboards, which increases public awareness of emergency response and preparedness.

Quizzes for listeners and interview with the leading experts were held through the radio, competitions for the best article were held in local newspapers, and competitions for the “best drawing” were held for children. For young people with disabilities, specific demonstration exercises were held, where the CoES showed the skills of search and rescue operations, taking into account gender, age, health status and other limitations. Youth played games, focusing on skills and knowledge.

At the end of each event, participants were awarded with diplomas and gifts.
3.3 Progress in Investment in Risk Reduction and Resilience

In Tajikistan, most of the DRR activities are carried out at the expense of budgetary funds provided for financing targeted programs and annual funding for ministries and departments, local government bodies, as well as attracting external investments, grants, humanitarian and donor funds from international organizations.

The Government of Tajikistan annually allocates budgetary and extrabudgetary funds for the prevention and elimination of the consequences of disasters. A significant part of these funds is directed to the resettlement of the affected population, the provision of material assistance to them, the planned resettlement of the population from territories prone to disasters, as well as bank protection works along the rivers of the Republic of Tajikistan.

It should be noted that there is no separate line for the implementation of disaster risk management activities in the state budget, which affects the work on the implementation of measures in the field of management and reduction of the risk of potential hazards.

Nevertheless, in 2018, in order to improve the functioning of the Unified State System for the Prevention and Elimination of Emergency Situations, to strengthen the material and technical base and capacity of emergency and civil defense authorities in the field of ensuring the protection of the population and territories of the country from natural and man-made disasters, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan approved the ”Development Program of the Committee for Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2018 – 2022”\(^7\). The funding for this program from the state budget amounted to 69,800,000 Tajik somoni (approximately 7,425,532 USD). Foreign investments for the implementation of this program amounted to 16,700,000 USD.

According to the World Bank’s Disaster Risk Finance Country Note 2019\(^8\), out of the total humanitarian assistance received by Tajikistan in 1999-2016 in the amount of 577 million USD, 91,892,181 USD was directed towards disaster response and recovery. The Government of Tajikistan also reports that from 2013 to 2017, 95,355,820 USD was provided to Tajikistan in the form of grants and technical assistance for disaster-related activities, including risk reduction.

To support the CoES Tajikistan and strengthen the capacity for disaster management and minimization of losses, the National Disaster Risk

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\(^7\) https://kchs.tj/sites/default/files/%D0%91%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%BC%D0%B0_0.pdf

Management Project, funded by the Asian Development Bank, has modernized the Anti-hail system installed in 1985 for the areas of the Hissar Valley.

Anti-hail service is designed to protect fields, orchards, vineyards, and other crops from hail and consists of the following components: Meteorological radar; Severe weather detection system; Hail dispersal system.

As part of this project, a modern DMRL-C-5 radar with improved capabilities was purchased, which has a much larger coverage area than the previously existing system.

The equipment has a wide range of capabilities, providing the necessary remote monitoring over a territory of up to 250 km and instantaneous reception and transmission of data. At the same time, it determines the amount of accumulation of snow and ice, as well as the size, shape, type of clouds, the sequence and type of precipitation, the presence of hail, and the degree of its diversity.

It can be used to determine the intensity of precipitation, on the basis of which experts can predict the actual location of mudflows, landslides, hail and strong winds. With the new equipment, 609,000 hectares of agricultural land in the Hissar Valley and the Vakhsh Valley will be protected from natural disasters - hail.

From 2018 to 2020 in Tajikistan, the project "Facilitating Climate Resilience in Tajikistan" implemented by UNDP and the Committee on Environmental Protection of Tajikistan, with financial support from the Government of the Russian Federation. The main objective of the project was to facilitate access to climate finance, and contribute to building climate resilient communities across Tajikistan and address specific threats to lives, physical and social infrastructure in disaster prone mountainous regions of Tajikistan

This project facilitated the development of new project proposals with additional investments aimed at sustainable human development in the face of climate change. The 950,000 USD project mobilized more than 10 million USD to improve livelihoods and well-being through access to climate finance, reducing physical and socioeconomic vulnerability, and increasing resilience to disasters.
Given that avalanches and mudflows are the most common types of disasters and the main cause of loss of life, search and rescue (SAR) capacity plays a critical role in reducing the number of casualties among the population during disasters.

In recent years, the CoES of Tajikistan, together with development partners, has been working to strengthen the capacity of state Search and Rescue Units. This collaboration focused on training of Tajspas personnel and providing rescue equipment: (1) training of trainers in a wide range of SAR tasks; (2) modernization of the SAR bases in Dushanbe (central training complex), Khujand, Bokhtar, Kulyab and Khorog; and (3) provision of life-saving equipment.

The UNDP project "Strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction and Response Capacity", which was implemented from 2016 to 2021 with the financial support of the Government of Japan, provided a wide range of equipment and specialized vehicles aimed at improving the technical capacity of the search and rescue service.

The OSCE project, with financial support from the European Union, assisted in the construction of a National Rescue Training Center focused on dealing with emergencies.

In March 2022, the Government of Tajikistan received a 50 million USD grant from the World Bank for the Tajikistan Preparedness and Resilience to Disasters Project, which will invest in strengthening the resilience of key infrastructure against natural hazards, better mitigating climate-related risks and enhancing the national capacity in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation. These activities will be implemented in coordination with the Asian Development Bank, UNDP and other development partners, which have also been investing in these efforts. The project will be implemented by the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Transport, and the Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defense.

It should be noted that international partners such as the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, Oxfam, Mercy Corps, German AgroAction, Mission East, ACTED, Caritas, the Tajik Red Crescent Society, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have also made and continue to make a big role in investing in disaster risk reduction for the sustainable development of society.
3.4 Progress in Disaster Preparedness, Response and “Build Back Better”

According to the data from the Committee for Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, approximately 380 disasters occurred in the country during 2015-2021, i.e., on average, one disaster occurred every six days.

According to statistics for the period from 2015 to 2022, the total number of disasters and the amount of damage tend to decrease, although the number of fatalities increased slightly over this period.
Mudflows have been the most common and most deadly type of disasters in Tajikistan (169 cases and 47 fatalities over a seven-year period). Landslides are in second place in terms of these indicators (57 cases and 43 fatalities). In most cases, mudflows and landslides have a limited area of impact, but they often occur during certain weather conditions, affecting several locations at the same time.

Seismic zoning for Tajikistan ranges from 7 (very strong) to 9 (destructive) on the Medvedev-Sponheuer-Karnik (MSK-64) scale. An annual average of 19 earthquake-related disasters have been reported over the 2015-2021 period, with an annual average of two fatalities.
Disasters from 2015 to 2021 have cost of just over 108 million USD based on official damage assessment reports.

Every year, the Head of the Civil Defense of Tajikistan - the Prime Minister approves the Plan of the main activities of the Republic of Tajikistan for civil defense, response, prevention and elimination of consequences of emergency situations. State executive authorities and local governments, in turn, develop and implement plans and tasks for the organization of civil defense and organize civil defense activities in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan "On Civil Defense".

Rapidly changing trends in global hazards, such as pandemics and climate change, highlight the need to better reflect the increased threats of biological hazards and man-made disasters, improve coordination and communication between key actors in the country’s disaster risk reduction system and with the public at large. The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic and the new risks associated with global climate change increase the importance of a systems approach to strengthen the capacity of regions and countries to deal with multidimensional disaster risks. The rapidly changing environment brings new challenges and circumstances that can put a lot of stress on a country’s disaster risk management system. It should be noted that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, society as a whole has been able to understand what a disaster is and what consequences it can have. This example has inspired the government and the population of the country to draw on these lessons learned to raise awareness about other types of disasters. The international community has provided support in building capacity and raising public awareness on DRR issues through projects and programs implemented in various regions of Tajikistan.

With the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), an inclusive process was undertaken to develop a sectoral National Action Plan for Sexual and Reproductive Health in emergencies for 2022-2026, engaging national associations working with women, youth and people with disabilities. The recommendations and considerations of all interested key stakeholders were addressed in the Action Plan particularly covering the needs of women, youth and disabled on the onset and in times of emergencies.
The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) maintains its own internal online Emergency Preparedness Platform to implement UNICEF's Procedure on Preparedness for Emergency Response. The Platform helps stakeholders analyse risks, self-assess and monitor their operational preparedness and identify high-return actions to get ready for immediate response. The Platform also includes contingency plans for all scenarios.

The problem of Lake Sarez, which belongs to dammed lakes, also remains topical. It appeared as a result of a catastrophic earthquake that occurred on February 18, 1911, and as a result, the Murghab River was completely blocked. Because of a large collapse, the natural barrier, which was about 4.5 km, buried the village of Usoy under it. This dam was named Usoy, having the following parameters: volume - 2.2 km³, weight - 6 billion tons, length - 5 km, width - 3.2 km, area - 10.8 km², height - 567m. Subsequently, Lake Sarez was formed. The length of Sarez lake is about 70 km, the maximum measured depth is about 500 m, the level of the lake is about 3255 m above sea level, the volume of water is more than 17 km³.

Intensive filling of the lake was completed in 1926. Since 1942, the level of the lake has fluctuated. In order to timely alert the population living in the Bartang Valley of GBAO and settlements located along the Pyanj River, which fall into the zone of possible flooding in the event of a dam break of the Sarez Lake on the Usoy Dam, a number of activities have been carried out by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and development partners over the years.

With a possible breakthrough of the Usoy dam, for the population of the Bartang Valley, who cannot be evacuated, in view of their proximity to a possible place of emergency, safety islands have been created with stockpiles of essential goods. To prepare the population of the Bartang Valley for emergency situations, simulation exercises are conducted annually.

In order to modernize the monitoring and early warning system of Sarez lake, within the framework of the National Disaster Risk Management Project, funded by the Asian Development Bank, TRE ALMIRA Company conducted a satellite analysis of the historical ground deformation over the Sarez lake. This study was divided into three parts: analysis before the earthquake (2015), seismic study and post-earthquake analysis covering the period from October 18, 2014 to February 25, 2020.
As a result, in September 2021, the latest monitoring and early warning system was purchased, installed and put into operation on Lake Sarez, for a daily monitoring.

The monitoring system installed on the Sarez lake consists of strong displacement accelerometers, hydrometric stations, meteorological station installed on the right bank and left bank slopes, which receive and process accurate information about the weather, precipitations (rain, snow), wind speed, water level on the lake, the frequency and strength of earthquakes, the amount of inflow and outflow and transmits directly to the control center in Dushanbe via satellite on a gratuitous basis.

Staff members of the Department of Sarez lake took intensive courses on monitoring, collection and processing of information, as well as on the use of the latest technical tools in their daily work.

It should be noted that the new warning system consisting of 30 sirens are installed in the hanging danger zones and runs along the Bartang River Valley and along the border with Afghanistan to Shahrituz District of Khatlon Region, bordering Surkhandarya Region of Uzbekistan. The project also handed over a drone for daily monitoring of the lake, radios, satellite phones, control stations with Scada software, portable tablets for measuring water outflow, GPS for manual observations, ADCP water level gauge, and surveyor level.

The modern devices certainly expand the monitoring and early warning system of Lake Sarez, which contributes to the capacity of Tajikistan to manage disaster risks and reduce socio-environmental vulnerability.
3.5 Collaboration, Partnership and Cooperation

The Government of Tajikistan is strengthening its cooperation with regional and international organizations in the field of disaster risk reduction. Multilateral and bilateral international agreements on disaster cooperation have been signed.

Tajikistan has adopted and is implementing the National Strategy for DRR, the National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change, and the National Strategy for Activating the Role of Women. Currently, the Government is considering a Strategy for the Development of a Green Economy.

Development partners make significant contribution to the development and implementation of DRR policies in line with Sendai Framework priorities. Projects are being implemented by various UN agencies and other international institutions and organizations, including the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and others.

As mentioned above, the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Tajikistan was established in March 2012. The Platform is a consultative and advisory body to coordinate the activities of the governmental structures working in the field of disaster risk management in Tajikistan. Capacity building of the DRR National Platform was supported by UNDP Tajikistan, with the financial support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation under the project "Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance in Tajikistan".

From 2021 to 2022, a comprehensive assessment of the disaster risk management capacity of Tajikistan was carried out in partnership with UNDRR and with the participation of its specialists to identify the benefits and development gaps. Stakeholders involved in DRR processes in the country, including experts representing key members of the DRR National Platform, ministries and state institutions, research organizations and international partners in disaster risk reduction identified key needs and challenges in the system and developed a targeted action plan to strengthen implementation of disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies in the country. The action plan, which was developed based on an assessment of the five following components of the risk management system, was endorsed at the National Platform meeting and recommended for implementation:

- Risk identification
- Risk reduction
- Preparedness and response
- Disaster recovery
- Financing the risk
As the next stage of a comprehensive capacity assessment and planning of the DRM system, in July 2022, experts from the DRR National Platform and related national agencies, international and local organizations, and representatives of academia participated in a workshop to validate the results of a stress test of the country's Disaster Risk Management (DRM) system, based on scenarios of the most hazardous disasters in the country. It was for these scenarios that participants assessed the importance of key components of the country's disaster risk management system.

This stress test was the first of its kind conducted in Central Asia, assessed the status of national capacities to reduce, absorb and transfer disaster risk and develop a targeted action plan to further support the strengthening of DRR. The results are intended to further strengthen risk management and better understand the complex risks of disasters in the country.

The existing Development Coordination Council (DCC) on Water, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group in Tajikistan is a donor-level mechanism for policy discussions and coordination on disaster risk reduction.

Tajikistan also has a Rapid Emergency Assessment and Coordination Team (REACT). REACT is co-chaired by the Chairman of the Committee for Emergency Situation and Civil Defence and the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Tajikistan. REACT platform allows various international agencies, UN agencies and donors to coordinate during relief, recovery, preparedness and risk reduction process. It should be noted that over the past years REACT has shown its effectiveness in planning and implementation of emergency preparedness, response in addition to government disaster mitigation and reduction capabilities.

Successful cooperation is underway with many countries on disaster risk reduction. At present, the Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction is functioning in Almaty, with which the CoES Tajikistan actively cooperates and promotes the coordination of efforts in this direction at the level of the Central Asian region.

In Central Asia, most rivers cross the entire region. Changes in river flow patterns caused by climate change, combined with demographic processes, urbanization, agricultural development, and transport and energy infrastructure, are causing economic and social losses. This makes it necessary to develop a unified regional strategy for adaptation to climate change and disasters.

In November 2021 in Tashkent the Regional Forum - Meetings of the Heads of Emergency Agencies of Central Asian countries was held, where the Strategy for Cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction in Central Asia for 2022-2030 was approved. According to this document, the republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan committed to implement the Strategy through initiation, development and implementation of joint interstate and international programs and projects in the field of disaster risk reduction, adaptation to climate change, prevention and elimination of emergencies, with technical support from donor agencies, international and non-governmental organizations, scientific and research institutions, as well as the private sector.
Significant work has been done within the framework of potential cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in the field of disaster prevention and elimination. The main goal of this cooperation was to improve interaction in the area of prevention of natural and man-made disasters and elimination of their consequences in the border territories of the two countries. However, recent events in the neighboring country prevented the continuation of the planned joint work.

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan is actively working with partners to integrate disaster risk reduction into development process in line with the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and the priorities of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Development partners, including UN agencies and other international organizations, strengthen cooperation with the agencies of the Republic of Tajikistan and implement various DRR projects at the national and local levels. The need for coordination in DRR was highlighted at the meetings, roundtables and workshops, to strengthen cooperation, identify progress and achievements, areas for strengthening cooperation and areas for targeted support for both joint programs and individual projects.

To address these needs, in May 2022 the Secretariat of the DRR National Platform in collaboration with UNDRR and the office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Tajikistan started holding thematic coordination meetings between members of the UN Country Team and international partners working on DRR in Tajikistan. During the meetings, information is exchanged on current disaster risk reduction activities, problems in the implementation of programs and activities in the country, views are exchanged on improving coordination, and a database on DRR activities in the country was discussed.

The development of a transparent and effective monitoring system is an essential component for the implementation of the country’s DRR strategy. Monitoring the implementation of the national DRR strategy will be useful in coordinating the activities of national and international stakeholders, as well as in planning national investment and development programs.

In 2022, the Committee for Emergency Situations and Civil Defense under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, together with the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction with financial support from the European Union, began the process of developing an information system for monitoring the implementation of the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction in Tajikistan. The process involved all DRR stakeholders in Tajikistan, including national and international organizations in the country. A group of key experts developed a vision for the monitoring system and an action plan for its development.
### 3.6 Progress in Achieving the Targets of the Sendai Framework

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<tr>
<th>Targets</th>
<th>Progress</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A  Substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, aiming to lower average per 100,000 global mortality between 2020-2030 compared to 2005-2015.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B  Substantially reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, aiming to lower the average global per 100,000 between 2020-2030 compared to 2005-2015.</td>
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<tr>
<td>C  Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030</td>
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<tr>
<td>D  Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services, among them health and educational facilities, including through developing their resilience by 2030.</td>
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<tr>
<td>E  Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.</td>
<td>In 2018, Tajikistan’s National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction for 2019-2030 was adopted. At the moment, there is a Midterm Program on Protection of Population and Territory for 2022-2027 under approval by the Government of Tajikistan. After approval of this program it is planned to extend the National Strategy on DRR until 2033.</td>
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<td>F  Substantially enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of this framework by 2030.</td>
<td>The Government of Tajikistan strengthens cooperation with regional and international organizations in the field of disaster risk reduction. There are multilateral and bilateral international agreements on disaster cooperation. According to the official data from the State Committee on Investments, six projects are currently being implemented with the support of development partners for a total amount of 129 million USD. All these projects are aimed at environmental and disaster risk reduction issues.</td>
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<td>Efforts are underway to attract additional funding under the National Disaster Risk Management Project in the amount of 30 million USD. Negotiations are ongoing with the World Bank on financing a new project in the amount of 50 million USD, which is currently under internal review.</td>
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<td>Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030. In recent years, the operation of the monitoring and early warning system in the country has been studied in detail. At the moment, the early warning system (EWS) on Lake Sarez has been successfully updated and is functioning. The same monitoring system is installed in the Kairakum reservoir. There are also local early warning systems in the Rasht group of districts and in the Zarafshan valley. In the future, it is planned to develop and install EWSs at other natural and artificial dams in the country.</td>
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Due to insufficient information, it was not possible to integrate the data for **Targets A-D**.

It should be noted that there are certain issues with data collection covering different types of hazards.

Collecting data on disaster losses, disaggregated by income, sex, age and disability, as well as hazard type and location, remains a major challenge. As a result, only partially disaggregated data have to be provided.

However, the Government is working to establish mechanisms for collecting, analyzing and disseminating information on losses and risks from natural disasters, taking into account disaggregated data by gender, age, disability, etc.

### 4. Contextual Shifts, New and Emerging Issues and Challenges

Overall, there has been a significant improvement in disaster risk management and reduction in Tajikistan. Nevertheless, there were some challenges that delay the timely implementation of the set objectives.

A protracted review process for the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy for 2019-2030 led to more than a year between drafting the Strategy and actual approval by the Government at the end of 2018. Nonetheless, all partners and
stakeholders provided sustained support to DRR National Platform Secretariat as the approval process ran its course.

Uncertain funding for the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction from the state budget and international investments has affected the implementation process of the Strategy and the Sendai Framework priorities. Nevertheless, several consultations and meetings with the Government and international partners on financing of DRR issues were held within the framework of cooperation.

The damage assessment procedures used by government agencies do not provide the full range of information that meets the requirements of the Sendai Framework and accepted international methodologies for damage and needs assessment. In addition, these procedures are not in line with modern technological capabilities.

Entities and organizations continue to work to improve gender mainstreaming in emergency prevention and response, given that women and men have specific needs and vulnerabilities. At the same time, women are seen not only as a vulnerable group, but also as a valuable resource in disaster risk reduction initiatives.

Gender-balanced engagements and ensuring women’s participation in activities is another priority in the involvement of all groups in society, as the field of disaster risk reduction is mainly occupied and worked by men. Recognizing the challenge of working with male-dominated organizations, an active work continued with partners to engage women in trainings and other activities.

Given the complex nature of the tasks consisting of DRR policy, institutional development and technical assistance activities, Tajikistan has faced implementation challenges due to the impact of the COVID19 pandemic in the country and globally. The pandemic delayed most activities (including structural mitigation works, workshops, trainings, consultations, meetings and conferences on DRR and water). Travel restrictions around the world and in Tajikistan have disrupted plans for technical visit outside the country, assessment and integration of risk assessment results into district development plans, international experience and knowledge sharing, thereby causing serious delays in the implementation of key project activities. During this critical period, the involvement of the CoES and other government agencies in the COVID 19 response took priority over specific project activities. Despite these challenges, a number of planned activities were implemented and significant progress was made toward achieving goals.

The issues of disaster risk reduction is not sufficiently mainstreamed into policies and investments across all sectors and is not yet fully integrated into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
5. Prospective Review and Recommendations

Disaster risk reduction is gaining attention and understanding as a priority and an important condition for sustainable development of the country. The Government of Tajikistan and specialized structures allocate human and financial resources for further capacity building in disaster risk reduction at all levels - adoption of legislative and regulatory acts, development of national strategic documents, programs and action plans, expansion of cooperation with technical assistance organizations, involvement of stakeholders through the mechanism of national coordination.

Nevertheless, despite significant progress in disaster risk management and reduction, there are a number of areas where DRR measures are needed to strengthen resilience.

The country has created legislative, institutional, and organizational basis for the state policy on disaster risk reduction. However, in the context of global climate change, the emergence of new emerging threats, it is necessary to integrate new approaches into public policy aimed at shifting the focus from disaster management to disaster risk management, especially at the local level.

Relief and recovery planning and coordination procedures need to be improved among development and humanitarian partners in order to develop a unified approach and increase the transparency of decisions, taking into account the promotion of gender equality and the development of other sectors.

It is necessary to improve the mechanisms and existing procedures for damage assessment used by state bodies, bringing them into line with international best practices.

It is also important to continue building institutional capacity for risk assessment, disaster preparedness and response at the national and local levels.

It is necessary to develop and implement models for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2019-2030 in accordance with the monitoring targets of the Sendai Framework and the SDGs.

In order to involve all stakeholders and attract additional human and financial resources, intensify the dialogue of government structures with the private sector, civil society, local communities on participation in disaster risk management, including strengthening the leadership of women, persons with disabilities and youth to develop preparedness plans, response and recovery, taking into account the interests and needs of various social groups.

To protect and ensure coverage of all parts of society, it is necessary to expand gender mainstreaming and gender-sensitive activities to increase public awareness and understanding of disaster risks, the importance of public participation in the establishment of early warning, response, recovery and development systems.
Against the background of a marked increase in funding for the protection of the population and territories of the country from emergencies from the state budget and the growth of foreign investment, it is important to analyze the ratio of funds allocated to disaster risk management and disaster response and, taking into account the results, to make adjustments to the financial policy in this area.

Considering demographic and migration processes, increase women’s representation at the decision-making level in disaster risk reduction at national and local levels.

It is also necessary to continue capacity building and strengthen the role of the media in improving preparedness and response to emergencies, taking into account the special needs of the most vulnerable populations.
6. Annexes

1. **Table of trends in the number of disasters, fatalities and the amount of damage for 20015-2022.**

2. **World Bank Country Note on Disaster Risk Financing for 2019.**