

ANNEX: REFERENCE GUIDE FOR PREPARATION OF NATIONAL INFORMATION

Component 1 Political Commitment and Institutional Aspects

Political commitment, strong institutions, and good governance are expected to elevate disaster risk reduction as a policy priority, allocate the necessary resources for it, enforce its implementation and assign accountability for failures, as well as facilitate participation from civil society to private sector. Due to its multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral nature, disaster reduction falls into the agenda of many diverse institutions, which, for effective implementation, requires clear assignment of roles and assumption of responsibilities as well as coordination of activities.

1.1- Are there national policy, strategy and legislation addressing disaster risk reduction?

Yes. The Government of Albania issued a National Policy Paper on disaster risk reduction approved by Government on 21 January 2000 entitled "Policy on Civil Emergency Planning and Response". This was the same year as supporting legislation on matters pertaining to Civil Emergency Issues was passed. The main mechanisms for enforcing the policy have been centered on the creation of a Department of Civil Emergency Planning and Response, in the Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization. With the support of the UNDP Disaster Management and Emergency Preparedness Programme (DMEP), some of the main priority areas of the policy have been pursued through the development of the Disaster Risk Reduction in Albania (published by the Ministry in 2002) and the National Civil Emergency Plan for Albania which is in its final stages of approval before being passed into law.

1.2- Is there a national body for multi-sectoral coordination and collaboration in disaster risk reduction, which includes ministries in charge of water resource management, agriculture/land use and planning, health, environment, education, development planning and finance?

Yes. Three national bodies are in place.

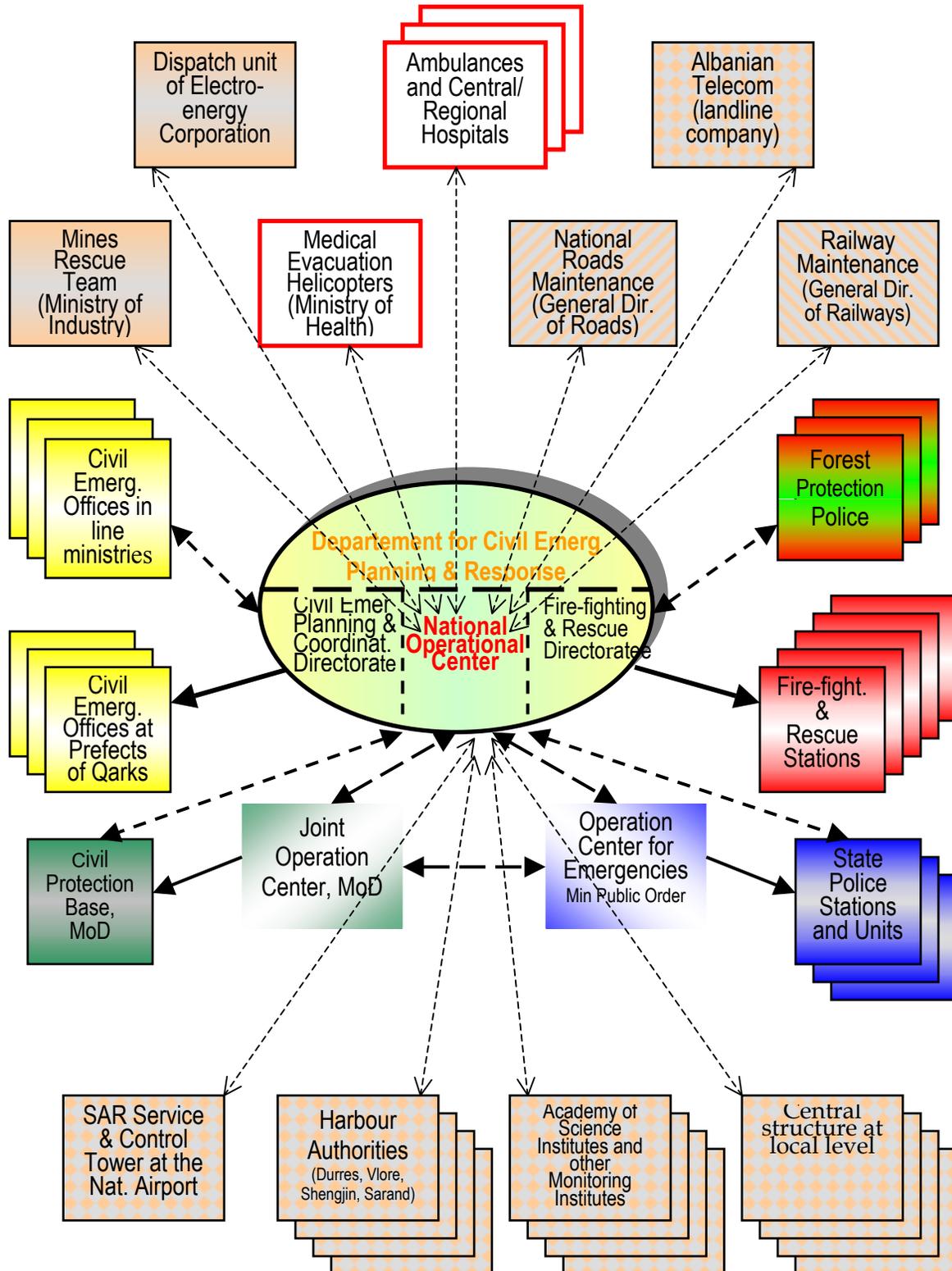
Firstly, for emergency situations only, an Inter Ministerial Committee for Civil Emergency Response is established in law, which has subsequently on occasion during flood emergencies in Albania.

Secondly, in accordance with national legislation (above) a Department of Civil Emergency Planning and Response is established in the Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization. This Department, under a General Director, is divided into three functional structures as follows:

- *Directorate for Civil Emergency Planning and Coordination*
- Directorate of Fire Protection and Rescue Police
- National Operations Centre for Civil Emergency

This Department has no direct responsibility for the work of the other line ministries, but does have a responsibility for ensuring the effective coordination of all ministries, institutions and other bodies in matters of civil emergency management, including those of mitigation, and preparedness. This central coordinating role is reflected in the functional relationship between this department and full time civil emergency officers in all 12 Prefectures (Qarks) of Albania. These civil emergency personnel have a similar role at their local level in coordinating civil emergency matters for both local structures and national structures that have representation at local level. (See the following chart)

Emergency Standby Structures in Albania



1.3- Are there sectoral plans or initiatives that incorporate risk reduction concepts into each respective development area (such as water resource management, poverty alleviation, climate change adaptation, education and development planning)? Yes.

Although the draft National Civil Emergency Plan for Albania intentionally does not feature individual sectoral plans, it is nonetheless closely linked to existing sectoral plans, sectoral strategies and contingency plans. These include:

- National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP)
- Strategy related to Forest Fires
- Contingency Plan related to Radioactivity
- Initiative on Land Use and Watershed Management

Challenges and limitations to sectoral planning of this nature includes the dynamic economic development and migration patterns experienced in Albania over the last decade, accompanied by an at times almost uncontrolled boom in construction. The extreme challenges which this continues to bring to matters such as urban planning, and its relationship with disaster risk reduction plans and strategies has yet to be overcome. Secondly, the extreme environmental pressures in rural areas over this time, include large scale deforestation, mineral and aggregates extraction, and other land use exploitation which has increased disaster risk in an environment of very limited financial means.

However, through the evolving strategy for disaster risk reduction, embodied in the follow up initiatives outlined in the draft National Civil Emergency Plan, the gradual integration of disaster risk reduction into the development sectors is an absolute priority for sustainable development.

1.4- Is disaster risk reduction incorporated into your national plan for the implementation of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), National Adaptation Plans of Action, National Environmental Action Plans and WSSD (World Summit on Sustainable Development) Johannesburg Plan of Implementation?

Yes, risk reduction is incorporated in following documents:

Risk reduction policies are incorporated in the Millennium Development Goal(MDGs) Report emphasized especially in relation to MDG Goal 1 Eradicate Extreme Poverty, Hunger and other Dimensions of Poverty; and MDG Goal 7 Ensure Sustainable Environmental Development. In relation to MDG Goal 1 there is a clear link between poverty and disaster vulnerability, and risk reduction can make a major contribution to poverty reduction, depending on the context. In MDG Goal 7/target 9 sustainable developments the relations is made through the development of disaster plans at all the levels. Report stressed the fact that in Albania there is no substitute for inclusive growth and targeted poverty reduction programs i. e. specific interventions for most vulnerable groups, but improvements are made in identifying the geographic location of at-risk groups to possibly design and implement social policies and programs.

The Progress Report on Implementation of the National Strategy for Socio-Economic Development during 2003 and Priority Action Plan 2004-2007(NSSD) refer to risk reduction strategies in terms of decentralization of major services and implementation of the fiscal decentralization reform, in strategies of infrastructure development and human resources development.

1.5- Does your country have building codes of practice and standards in place, which takes into account seismic risk?

Yes. In Albania, the standard building code is the Technical Conditions Code on Design (KTP) of 1989, which takes into account seismic compliance. Due to the relatively high seismic exposure of Albania, this code requires replacing according to Euro Code VIII as a priority. There are considerable difficulties in complying with the existing codes, related to the almost uncontrolled building boom in Albania over the last decade. Additionally, there are specific guidelines regarding the building of dams, including Law 8681 of 2 November 2000 on The Design, Construction Exploitation and Management of Dams and Barriers, of which Albania has some of the highest in Europe. The recent reclassification of many dams in Albania according to the existing codes has not yet been followed with the necessary structural improvements and measures due to considerable financial constraints. The situation is compounded with difficulties in sustaining maintenance and repair schedules.

1.6- Do you have an annual budget for disaster risk reduction?

Four types of budgetary provision are in place for emergency issues as follows:

- Emergency Budget of the Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization
- Emergency Budgets of Local Government
- Reallocated Budgets of Line Ministries
- Council of Ministers Reserve Fund.

Although these budgets are primarily intended for issues of emergency situations, there are nonetheless training budgets and development budgets within line ministries that have disaster risk reduction elements within them. In overall terms though, the available financial means for disaster risk reduction in Albania are extremely limited at the present time.

1.7- If yes, is this commitment represented as part of the national budget or project based? Through which institution/s? If no, what other financing mechanisms for risk reduction initiatives are available?

Other financing initiatives are project based, and involve specific disaster risk reduction initiatives with donor governments and international partners such as the UNDP. In Albania, the UNDP Disaster Management and Emergency Preparedness Programme (DMEP) is at the very center of disaster risk reduction initiatives. This project is largely financed by DFID and concentrates on assisting the building of the complete civil emergency management structure in Albania (as detailed in other sections). The Project in increasing the human capacities in field of emergency, implement by FORMEZ, financed by Italian Government is in the way.

1.8- Are the private sector, civil society, NGOs, academia and media participating in disaster risk reduction efforts?

Participation of these stakeholders is varied. The participation of the private sector is largely on a pre agreed tariff basis to provide services, and volunteerism from civil society organization is far from strong. This is with the notable exception of the Albanian Red Cross that is leading the voluntary sector and is a close partner with both the Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization and the UNDP DMEP Programme, with an established partnership strategy. The other main partner, the Albanian

Academia is strongly represented in civil emergency issues, particularly in planning and monitoring. NGOs are limited in capacity regarding civil emergency issues. Media is increasing its role through for example clearly broadcasting situations in Albania with a focus on poverty and vulnerability, and also broadcasting programmes with civil emergency and disaster information from other countries. The lacks of voluntary spirit, low private sector interest, are the main constraints, affected by underlying financial constraints and poverty.

Component 2 Risk Identification

Identification of risks is a relatively well-defined area with a significant knowledge base on methods for disaster impact and hazard and vulnerability assessment. Systematic assessment of losses, social and economic impact of disasters, and particularly mapping of risks are fundamental to understand where to take action. Consideration of disaster risks in environmental impact assessments is still to become routine practice. Early warning is increasingly defined as a means to inform public and authorities on impending risks, hence essential for timely actions to reduce their impact.

2.1- Has your country carried out hazard mapping/assessment?

Yes: In 2003 the national “Disaster Risk Assessment” of Albania was finalized. It was result of the cooperation between Albanian Academy of Sciences, UNDP Disaster Management and Emergency Preparedness (DMEP) Programme, and Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization. The one-year in depth study includes scientific and technical disaster risk assessment of the following hazards that Albania faces:

- Landslides
- Earthquakes
- Floods including dam-burst
- High snowfalls including avalanche
- Forest Fires
- Epidemics

The Disaster Risk Assessment is current as at 2003 with the following updates ongoing:

- Seismological data being updated according to the latest research initiatives of the Albanian Institute of Seismology.
- Forest Fire data being updated according to recent research initiatives and investment.

The geographical area includes the whole of the Albanian territory for all the major hazards, includes detailed impact projections, considerable reference to both national and sub-regional historical data, and a multi hazards approach to issues of prevention and mitigation, prevention and protection, response and recovery from, natural disasters and civil emergency situations.

The Disaster Risk Assessment is the key hazard risk resource for all concerned line Ministries, Directorates, institutions and civil society organizations, including the Albanian Red Cross. This document is also the basis upon which the National Civil Emergency Plan for Albania is being developed, with the cooperation and support of the same stakeholders, and is therefore a widely used and referred to document. Copes of

the Disaster Risk Assessment in Albania are widely distributed to all stakeholders and copies in English and Albanian available on request. (Copy of the executive summary in English is available on request).

2.2- Has your country carried out vulnerability and capacity assessments?

Yes. The Albanian Red Cross, with the support of UNDP DMEP is presently undertaking a VCA at local level in high-risk areas in six of the 12 Albanian Prefectures (Qarks). The VCA also feeds the national planning process, and the summary terms of reference are as follow:

I. Country situation

Albania is vulnerable to a range of disasters, and like several countries in the region the greatest single disaster threat is that of severe earthquake. Records show that in addition to this ever-present threat, the typical risk across Albania is that of small-scale disaster related to floods, landslides, wild- forest fires and high snow.

The vulnerability of the population to both large and small scale disaster is stimulated by condition of roads, access and communications, an almost unregulated building boom in poorly constructed high rise blocks, and a range of environmental factors from rapid deforestation and poor watershed management to environmental pollution and volatile ammunition stocks.

II. Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment at the local level

In order to steer activities at the local level into the right direction the project requires a better qualitative view "from the bottom" of what the frequent hazards are, who and what is particularly exposed to them and what the local capacities and coping mechanisms are to deal with these vulnerabilities.

2.3- Does your country have any mechanisms for risk monitoring and risk mapping?

Yes. A most comprehensive risk mapping of the territory of Albania has been undertaken as a part of the National Disaster Risk Assessment, and which is being systematically updated, for instance with developments in seismic research information from the Albanian Academy of Science. The responsibility to manage this risk mapping resource is that of the Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization, Department of Civil Emergency Planning and Response.

2.4- Is there a systematic socio-economic and environmental impact and loss analysis in your country after each major disaster?

After each event institution in charge are doing systematic reports for their field of operation but not detail analysis for socio-economic and environmental impact and loss. The first efforts to prepare standard post event reports are underway, but there is lack of capacity in more detailed analysis of this nature at the present time.

2.5- Are there early warning systems in place?

Yes. The Ministry of Local Government and Decentralization has a 24hour National Operations Center for Civil Emergencies (NOC). Its own radio network is in place in all 12 prefectures (Qarks) in Albania, but coverage beyond that is limited to 70% of

Albanian territory, and not all Qarks have direct radio links back to the NOC. The Ministry of Public Order and Ministry of Defense also have 24 operational centers and radio systems, providing a national system where early warning can be transmitted very rapidly to alert and if necessary evacuate people and property from an area at risk. The Academy of Science Hydro-meteorology, seismology and radiology monitoring stations are in place all around the territory provide early warning. These are mostly designed with old technology but are mostly functional. The NOC is regularly active in response to early warning, the most recent example being floods in March 2004, and the NOC prepares daily reports for concerned authorities and stakeholders. One lesson learned is the relationship between early warning and the public awareness through education and awareness campaigns.

Component 3 Knowledge Management

Information management and communication, education and training, public awareness and research are all parts of improving and managing knowledge on disaster risks and their reduction. Inclusion of disaster reduction at all levels of education, effective public awareness and information campaigns, media involvement in advocacy and dissemination, availability of training for communities at risk and professional staff, and targeted research are the ingredients to support the knowledge base for effective disaster reduction.

3.1- Does your country have disaster risk information management systems (governmental and/or non-governmental)?

Yes. Although a GIS based system is still at the training stage, considering the constraints in Albania, a relatively robust disaster risk information system does exist, using other means of communication. The national focal point of the system is the Department of Civil Emergency Planning and Response which consolidates and analyses all risk related information, including benefiting from a 24 hour National Operations Centre for emergency information of immediate risks. However the strength at field level is the system of Civil Emergency Officers at each Prefecture or Qark level, covering all 12 Qarks of the territory. In turn these civil emergency officers have close links with their counterparts at commune and municipal level. The exception is the largest municipality of Tirana, which has direct links to the Department, on account of its special status and size of population. Sources of information come from all relevant ministries, institutions, local government sources, civil society organisations and the public. Training programmes and the gradual provision of information technology resources is slowly transforming this system in a comprehensive civil emergency information resource system with just as strong a role for mitigation as for response. Despite the constraints in Albania, significant progress in this area has been made in the last two years, with the key being the cooperation and coordination between different national and regional level stakeholders.

3.2- Are the academic and research communities in the country linked to national or local institutions dealing with disaster reduction?

Yes. The Albanian Academy of Sciences, Institutes of Hydro-meteorology and Seismology, Faculties of Geology and Mining and Civil Engineering, and the Department of Epidemiology and several additional national and sub regional institutions have played a key role in the development of the Disaster Risk Assessment for Albania, and in the development of the National Civil Emergency Plan for Albania. All these academic and research institutes and the key personnel within them continue to play a highly valued

role in the development of the civil emergency system and subsequent disaster risk reduction in Albania.

3.3- Are there educational programmes related to disaster risk reduction in your public school system?

No educational curriculum materials at the present time, but extra curricular activities are included. Ministry of Local Government support by DMEP has produced general leaflets also suitable for children on: Earthquakes, floods, and safety home. Albanian Police support by Police Assistance Mission of the European Community in Albania (PAMECA) has produced road safety instruction.

3.4- Are there any training programmes available?

Yes, in fulfilling its legal responsibilities, over the last two years the Ministry of Local Government and Decentralisation has designed and implemented the National Civil Emergency Training Curriculum comprised of eight training manuals. It has undertaken seven training activities and organised conferences at national and regional level. The training manuals are entitled:

- Fundamentals of Disaster Management in Albania (including the Disaster Management Glossary)
- Disaster Response Planning
- Local Disaster Preparedness and Response
- Disaster Damages and Needs Assessment
- Coordination of Disaster Response Operations
- Disaster Relief Logistics and Distribution
- Disaster Management Trainer's Guide
- Design Guide for Emergency Preparedness, Desk-top Simulations and Field Exercises

The eight training manuals were developed through a long and thorough consultation process with all the relevant institutions in Albania, and were further tested and improved in the field through several training activities at local level. They contain national and international civil emergency standards and guidelines, and draw on expertise and case studies from Albanian reality. The first six manuals are printed in two consolidated editions, "The Manual of Response to Civil Emergencies" and "The Basis of Civil Emergency Planning". The Trainer's Guide and Design Guide for Emergency Preparedness, Desk-top Simulations and Field-Exercises are printed separately.

The training activities for the year 2003-2004 are:

- Disaster Response Planning at Regional and Local Level
- International Seminar on Disaster Management (Including the participation South East European Countries Civil Emergency Representatives)
- Training of Trainers for Disaster Management
- Regional Workshop on Local Disaster Planning in Albania (Northern Qarks)
- Regional Workshop on Local Disaster Planning in Albania (Southern Qarks)
- Disaster Damage and Needs Assessment at Regional Level
- Passing from Contingency Planning to Civil Emergency Regional Planning
- Developing and improving contingency plans which have been subsequently produced in all 12 Prefectures

- Production of booklet on consolidated civil emergencies legal base, and subsequent training of all Prefectures on legal issues
- Geographic Information System (GIS) training is ongoing at National and Prefecture levels

Through the Training of Trainers initiative, Albania now has its own core group of civil emergency trainers. They have increased the capacities and confidence in designing and organising training activities for different target groups at national and local level. There has been significant impact of these training activities at national and local level, which has been reflected in the quality of contingency planning, responses to smaller scale civil emergency situations and in the cooperation in developing the National Civil Emergency Plan.

Future Training Strategy

Despite the considerable progress made in strengthening the civil emergency capacities of Albania to date, there remains much work to be done in future. The National Civil Emergency Plan is the reference point for launching the second stage of development in training, that is, of design of the National Civil Emergency Training Strategy. This strategy will make possible the institutionalisation and standardisation of disaster management initiatives. It will also lead to a strengthening of the capacities of operational staff and planning in general, making a more effective response to future civil emergency situations possible.

3.5- What kind of traditional indigenous knowledge and wisdom is used in disaster-related practices or training programmes on disaster risk reduction in your country?

Joint training activities with all relevant governmental, non-governmental, and civil society stakeholders at all levels are systematically organized, using the National Civil Emergency Training Curriculum developed with the assistance of UNDP DMEP. This approach is in line with the decentralization process of local government in Albania, and encourages local and traditional knowledge of a diverse physical and cultural environment to be brought to the fore, in issues of civil emergency and disaster management. Furthermore, ensuring inclusion and coordination of all such relevant stakeholders in civil emergency training and simulation exercises arranged by other organizations is encouraged by the Department of Civil Emergency Planning and response.

3.6- Do you have any national public awareness programmes or campaigns on disaster risk reduction?

Yes. The Albanian Red Cross organises periodic national campaigns on disaster awareness issues, including health issues and volunteering. In October 2004 there will be a launch campaign on final results of the VCA in Albania, by Albanian Red Cross supported by UNDP DMEP.

Component 4 Risk Management Applications/Instruments

For effective disaster risk reduction, synergies are needed between sustainable development and disaster risk management practices. Moving from analyzing of and knowing about risks to taking concrete actions to reduce their impacts is a demanding step. Ideas and practices coming from different disciplinary areas will complement what is already practiced in disaster risk management. For example, instruments for risk

management have proliferated especially with the recognition of environmental management, poverty reduction and financial management.

Environmental and natural resource management is among the best-known applications to reduce flood risks, control landslides (through reforestation) and control droughts (through ecosystem conservation). Physical and technical measures, such as flood control techniques, soil conservation practices, retrofitting of buildings or land use planning, are effective in hazard control. Financial instruments in the form of insurance, calamity funds, catastrophe bonds are useful to lessen the impact of disasters.

4.1- Are there any good examples of linking environmental management and risk reduction practices in your country.

Yes. There are initial efforts to coordinate the correct management of HAZMATS being undertaken with the Ministry of Industry and Energy, and Ministry of Environment. The Ministry of Environment has established a network with 12 Environment Agencies for environmental issues and Environmental Action Plan has been approved. The draft National Civil Emergency Plan for Albania encompasses all key areas of environmental management in mitigation, protection, prevention, preparedness, and in response. There is improving regulation and implementation of land use and water shed management.

4.2- Are financial instruments utilized in your country as a measure to reduce the impact of disasters (e.g. insurance/reinsurance, calamity funds, catastrophe bonds, micro-credit finance, community funds, etc.)?

Insurance is presently being explored for fire and other risks and community funds are regularly put aside for disaster reduction issues. No other specific financial instruments exist at the present time.

4.3- Please identify specific examples of technical measures or programmes on disaster risk reduction that have been carried out in your country (see below, case studies).

Technical measures in process include:

- World Bank programme for increased safety of reservoirs and dams
- World Bank/Albanian Government investment programme in restoring pumping stations
- Albanian Government investment programme to re open and clear primary and secondary drainage channels
- EU/ Interministerial Group Road Safety Programme
- Adaptation of Euro-Codes, especially Euro-Code no. 8 (Seismic Code)

Component 5 Preparedness and Contingency Planning

Preparedness and emergency management has been used as a means for reducing life losses from direct and indirect effects of disasters. A well-prepared system is expected to be effectively informed by early warning, endowed with regularly rehearsed national and local contingency and evacuation plans, fitted with communications and coordination systems, as well as adequate logistical infrastructures and emergency funds. Local-level preparedness, particularly at community level, including training,

deserves special attention as the most effective way of reducing life and livelihood losses.

5.1- Do you have disaster contingency plans in place? Are they prepared for both national and community levels?

Yes, there are the following:

- UN Interagency Contingency Plan
- Draft National Civil Emergency Plan
- Contingency/emergency plans in all 12 Regions (Qarks)
- Sectoral plans at Central and Regional level

Main components available on specific request due to sheer size of information. Most of these plans are updated on an annual basis. The Lezhe and Shkodra Regional Contingency plans were recently used, with the result being identifiably improved civil emergency management.

5.2- Has your government established emergency funds for disaster response and are there national or community storage facilities for emergency relief items – mainly food, medicine, tents/shelters?

Emergency funds (as above, 1.6). For assistance, the following capacities exist:

Agency	Speciality	Capacity
Special Forces Teams		
Civil Protection Base, MoD, Tirana.	Earthquake SAR	2 teams
	Flood SAR	2 teams
	Firefighting/SAR	2 teams
	Chemical Pollution/SAR	2 teams
	Mountain SAR	2 teams
	Road clearance from snow and landslide	3 teams
Air Force Search and Rescue Service, MoD, Tirana	National airborne SAR Service	56 persons and 6 Helicopters
Special Commando Battalion, MoD, Tirana	Air and Marine accident SAR team	1 team
NBC Battalion, MoD	Chemical, bacteriological, ecological hazard rescue team	1 team 25 specialists
National Military Hospital, Tirana.	Emergency Surgical Teams (each of Surgeon, traumatologist, anaesthetist, 3 support staff)	2 teams
Specialist Technical Services		
Ministry of Industry and Energy	Mines Inspectorate, mines SAR team	52 Specialists
	Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation	55 Specialists
	Electrical Sector Emergency Response	60 Specialists (KESH)
Transport Capacities and Specialist Equipment		
Ministry of Tourism and Territory Regulation	Tankers	5 water tankers, 5 sewage tankers,
	Welding/cutting equipment	5 units
	Bulldozer	1 unit
Civil Protection Base, MoD	Transport Capacity (people)	16 vehicles (total 469 people)
	Transport Capacity (Freight)	29 Trucks (total 166 mt)
	Tipper Trucks	8 units (total of 100 mt)
	Earthmoving Equipment/Bulldozers	11 units (total of 450 m3)
	Snow Clearing Equipment	3 Units
	Motor Boats	8 units (total of 80 persons), 14 units for freight
	Fire Trucks	2 Units at 5 mt each
	Generators	8 units (total 396 kw)
Military Engineers Brigade, MoD	Specialist	50 Specialists
	Tipper trucks	5 units
	Earthmoving Equipment/Bulldozers	10 units excavators, 5 units tracked bulldozers
	Crane	1 unit at 15 mt

	Medium capacity vehicles	8 units
NBC Battalion, MoD	Decontamination	6 vehicle units and 25 specialists
State Reserves	Transport	20 light vehicles of 9 mt
Albanian Red Cross	Transport	4 heavy trucks, light vehicles in 12 branches in 12 qarks.
Assistance Services		
Civil Protection Base, MoD	Operational Forces	170 persons
	Field Hospital	1 unit 50 beds, 4 treatment rooms
	Potable Water	7 Tankers (total 67 mt) and 11 pumps (total 12 m3/hour)
	Water Purification	2 units (total 6,000 l/hour)
	Bakery units	2 units (total 2,400 kg/day)
	Mobile kitchens	12 units (total 3,000 rations/day) and 1 kitchen truck 300 rations/day
	Shelter	Tents for 17,000 people
	Shower Trucks	2 units (total 200 persons/day)
State Reserves	Temporary shelter	28,000 m2 for 6,000 people in warehouses Tents for 30,000 people
	Warehouse storage	Total of 43,000 m2 for goods Fuel storage for 14 mt
Albanian Red Cross	Food Rations	8,000 people for 1 month
	Shelter and Non Food Items	8,000 people
	Family links	Tracing service linked to ICRC international tracing system

5.3- Who is responsible for the coordination of disaster response preparedness and is the coordination body equipped with enough human and financial resources for the job?

The Department of Civil Emergency Planning and Response is responsible, according to the structure included above in: 1.2. There is evidence of improved coordination and national response during recent small-scale events such as floods, mine accidents, sea accidents in Albania. The department has been very active regarding communes at risk of flood in one area, and an Interministerial Technical Working Group has been organized by the department to prevent future emergency situations and identify solutions.

Component 6 Call for good practices in disaster risk management

Based on the above analysis and information provided, please provide at least two examples of any successful implementation of disaster reduction activities in your country (could be of local, national or regional scale); any project or community based experience, national policy, interaction between sectors, etc., would be welcome. Provide maximum one page on each example, indicating area of work, institutions and actors involved, duration, impact of the activities, lessons-learned and if the example have been replicated. You may also kindly direct us to relevant web-based information/organization.

There are several cases mainly in field of flood risk reduction it includes improving alert system, investment in the pump stations, maintaining irrigation, dikes and dams system, forestry project etc.

Component 7 Priorities you want addressed at World Conference on Disaster Reduction

What do you think are the priority topics to be agreed upon at the World Conference to enhance and strengthen national policy and practice to reduce risk and vulnerability to

natural and technological hazards? Please list any other thematic areas or specific topics of discussion that you consider of importance to increase the effectiveness of disaster risk reduction for your country.

In short:

- First suggestion: cross border issues
- Second suggestion: national capacity building for smaller countries, through inclusion in international teams and groups such as INSARAG, UNDAC, etc.

Please also indicate any particular experience or project that your country would like to exhibit or present at the Conference.

Suggestion:

- Disaster Risk Assessment (Executive Summary Report), National Civil Emergency Plan for Albania, Ministry of Local government/ UNDP DMEP posters, leaflets, brochures etc.
- Introduction of a new poster from Albania.