

Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for
South Eastern Europe
(DPPI SEE)

Project Proposal

For building resilience through child education

SAFE IN FLOODS



Partners
Republic of Croatia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Montenegro

November 2016

1. INTRODUCTION

“Safe in floods” project is dealing with children’s risk perception and risk preparedness engaged with community awareness of disaster risk reduction. Starting with the smallest cell of society which will by the passage of time, grow into responsible members of society that will potentially make decisions for entire particular community. That is clearly mirrored in saying of one of the recipient of “Champion of Change” award established by the Croatian National Protection and Rescue Directorate:

“If you are working with one child you are working with the whole family and small part of the community”. Sunčana JOKIĆ (2012)

2. BACKGROUND

Since 2014 the part of Southeastern Europe has been flooded severely. The most affected areas included eastern part of Croatia namely Slavonia, that is adjacent to the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina with river Sava being international border between these two states. Also was affected northern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Bijeljina) and northeastern part of Montenegro (Berane) causing severe hardship to people inhabiting this region. There was a large number of casualties in floods in Bosnia and Herzegovina, approximately 21 dead people. Montenegro was without casualties in terms of death tolls, however in terms of loss of material assets, approximately it was calculated 1.5 million EURO. In Croatia, death toll included two dead people and total damage was around 1.8 million EUR.

Having in mind these information we have recognized common need for devising project on disaster risk reduction in order to educate target vulnerable groups to decrease number of human casualties in previously mentioned flood prone municipalities.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

Until now we did not have any common project on awareness rising and disaster risk reduction with sole emphasis on floods. Added value of this very project is that it provides training of school teachers with sole emphasis on floods, who will transfer gathered knowledge to schoolchildren even though there exist a lot of projects with emphasis on earthquakes, fires and other natural hazards. Another added value of this project is networking pupils from schools from all three neighboring states which wasn’t made till now.

4. OBJECTIVES, INPUTS, OUTPUTS AND RESULTS

Overall objective of the project is to **include** citizens (focused on children with indirect transfer of knowledge to family's members) in activities of this project and **inform** general population about what they **need to do** in order to diminish the impact of floods. Inputs comprise recognition of their vulnerabilities to floods. Output will be rising awareness of target, vulnerable population and their better response if floods occurred.

The first result in accordance to Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and is related to the:

- 1st priority – **understanding disaster risk**;
- Secondly in general overview of the above mentioned Sendai framework - 4th priority based on **enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response** focused on children as vulnerable group (primary school, targeting pupils having 12 years old).

Long Term Objectives

There are three long-term objectives that will be achieved through the implementation of this project:

- a) Train the "trainers" (school teachers who are teaching social studies or science or environmental studies) - formal education through courses, seminars, workshops, TTX, round tables performed by experts from the national authorities competent for civil protection area (with focus on disaster risk reduction);
- b) Provide materials and equipment for dissemination of acquired knowledge;
- c) Adopt techniques, learn and practice skills.

Immediate Objectives

- i. Effective application of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
- ii. Effective information sharing and learning

Objectives and Results

Objective 1

To have interactive tool for disaster risk management and to start creating "culture of prevention" from the early age.

Result 1

Educational game based on UNISDR methodology and terminology.

Cost for development of educational game: 80 000 €

Responsible for the development and implementation: State, regional and local authorities competent for civil protection, schools.

Objective 2

Increasing knowledge of target groups (12 years schoolchildren) who will take those material home and 'transfer' acquired knowledge to their family.

Result 2

Drafting and printing booklets, pamphlets, flyers, playing cards (as education material) - on topic of natural disasters.

Cost of making promotional material: 200 000 €

Responsible for the implementation: State, regional and local authorities, schools.

Objective 3

To react swiftly according to trained procedures, to be better prepared and to reduce panic in case of real disasters.

Result 3

Practice exercises (simulation drills) on evacuation routes in schools.

Cost of organizing and conducting simulation drills: 480 000 €

Responsible for the implementation: Schools and local authorities.

Objective 4

Rising awareness of International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction - UNISDR): Visibility and testing of acquired knowledge (during this project) of UN Action Plan as a way to promote global culture of risk awareness and risk reduction which include disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness in accordance to Sendai Framework.

Result 4

Performing online virtual quiz on 13 October (as International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction – UNISDR) at the same time in target municipalities in all primary schools of three partner countries.

Costs of creating and conducting virtual (online) quiz: 240 000 €

Total cost of project implementation: 1 million €

Project is designed to be financed by European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) with the collaboration of the United Nations Children's Fund – UNICEF, based on child's fundamental right to protection from the risks of disasters and reducing vulnerability. EU will finance with 75% of total amount (Croatia as Member State), and 15% UNICEF (for other partner countries).

5. CHALLENGES AND RISKS

To harmonize proposed project activities with legally binding instructions from higher competent authorities for education with school curriculum in all three countries included in the project.

Time consuming while acting on Law on Public Procurement, procedures with tenders call and etc.

6. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

i. Project Leader Country – Republic of Croatia

Leading country of this project already has successfully implemented similar project of rising awareness (SafeQuake 2011) which is very important for exchange of gained experience and “lessons learned” for better application.

ii. Beneficiary Countries / Partners – Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro

As flood prone, named countries should intensively work on substantial reduction of disaster risks in communities. Advantage in cooperation is in facts that there is no language barrier, countries have proximate geographical space, similar cultural heritage (in the ex-Yugoslav Republic the system of civil protection was very good including all three countries).

7. CONCLUSION

Project will empower local communities and engage all of society which are guiding principles of disaster risk reduction. It is applicable on frequent, predicted hazards/risks (flood) in the named areas which is one of scopes and purposes of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.