

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

Project Proposal
for

**Improving DRR capacity through education on the
national level**

Partners

Grow up with DRR

November 2016

1. INTRODUCTION

Montenegro faces the risks of floods every year. The past experiences shows that the biggest losses are caused by the lack of readiness and knowledge in what-to-do during a disaster. These losses and impacts can be minimized by educating individuals and families in how they should behave and react in the case of a disaster.

Education is the biggest tool to fight against the natural disasters. Hence, the schools are the perfect locations to promote disaster awareness, and schools' successful utilization yields a sustainable, disaster-aware society.

2. BACKGROUND

The floods caused an economic loss to the region. The gross domestic product (GDP) of the country is affected by some one percent, and tens of thousands of people is put at risk of losing their job temporarily or even permanently. The long-term impact of the floods include poverty and food security in rural areas where crops were destroyed. The impact is particularly grave given that up to two-thirds of the people living in these rural areas depend on small-scale agriculture for food and income.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

Many projects regarding DRR took place in Montenegro, but still focusing more on response rather than on prevention. Still, even it was done a lot in the field of education, what is missing is wider implementation of educational measures for everybody.

With the UNDP support were made municipal plans for protection and rescue from floods for 12 municipalities in Montenegro. An integral part of those municipal plans for protection and rescue from floods are flood risk assessments. Maps of endangered areas were made using the program Quantum GIS (Geographic Information System-GIS) to enable the digitally monitoring of the situation in the affected areas, depending on weather conditions.

Also was realized the project Preparedness for response to disasters and disaster risk reduction, in cooperation with the Department of Education and with the support of UNICEF. The project was implemented in five elementary schools. Intersubject program "Education in emergencies" for elementary school students was adopted, with the methodological guidelines for teacher training. It was made a Guideline for actions in cases of emergency.

Another project that was realized is Adaptation to climate change in the Western Balkans, in support of the German Agency for International Cooperation – GIZ. There were made plans for protection and rescue from floods in five municipalities. There were developed flood risk maps for the area of Skadar Lake and river Bojana. In the city municipality of Tuzi and Ulcinj municipality brochure has been prepared in Montenegrin and Albanian language.

4. OBJECTIVES, INPUTS, OUTPUTS AND RESULTS

Overall objective of the project is to build the capacity of all stakeholders involved in school based Disaster risk reduction at national level

Long Term Objectives

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

- a) **To motivate direct participation of key stakeholders in activities to build disaster resilient community.**
 - To organize meetings, seminars to share good practices; to demonstrate and emphasise the importance of DRR in the higher governance circle.

b) **To improve prevention willingness and preparedness capacity of officers, teachers and children.**

- training of officers in relevant ministries – Ministry of Education, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Interior affairs;
- special emphasis on the teacher education by domestic and international professionals;
- to educate the children from the very early age, emphasising the vulnerable children groups, including homeless, orphans, disabled children.
- Forming the mobile educational and training centers (trucks, busses) to reach those isolated and most vulnerable: those who do not go to school or live in isolated areas, with no financial resources to organize educational trips for everybody to visit fixed educational and training centers. More cost-effective for municipalities than the possibility to organize separated subjects in every school (additional costs for teachers salaries).

c) **To create longer lasting effect of the gained knowledge.**

- Mobile educational centers with recognizable signs, simple and understandable for the youngest ones;
- Often, if not regular, presence of these centers in every municipality, every school, kindergarden, orphanage, on the street where the homeless children live.

Immediate Objectives

1. Preparing children for reaction in the real situations of emergency:

- Making brochures with a lot of images to ensure easier memorizing for the youngest ones;
- Organising additional classes where professionals from search and rescue services could share their personal experiences with the children.

2. Building disaster resilience of schools:

- b) Making Disaster and Emergency Plans in schools;
- c) Conduct periodic multi – hazard drills in schools

Objectives and Results

Objective 1

To motivate direct participation of key stakeholders in activities to build disaster resilient community.

Result 1

Key stakeholders will participate in all DRR activities and as a consequence will understand the importance of DRR. They will show the higher level of willingness to support the projects that lead to more resilient society, by financing it and supporting it through changes in the legislative.

Objective 2

To improve prevention will and preparedness capacity of officers, teachers and children.

Result 2

Officers will support DRR ideas and projects, teachers will pay higher attention on educating children about importance of prevention and preparedness, and as a result children will grow up with awareness of disaster risk reduction importance, creating a complete new social environment based on the new DRR state of mind.

Objective 3

To create longer lasting effect of the gained knowledge.

Result 3

The awareness of the DRR knowledge will live longer in the minds of those who are responsible for sharing it. They will distribute their knowledge more intensively until the point where it becomes routine and deeply implemented in the collective state of mind.

Objective 4

Preparing children for reaction in the real situations of emergency:

Result 4

Preparedness for adequate action and response, less casualties, lower risk of fatal result.

Objective 5

Building disaster resilience of schools:

Result 5

Increase the level of security and safety

5. CHALLENGES AND RISKS

National and local government may not pay enough attention to DRR education. There is high possibility of facing financial problems. Lack of formal legislative support due to lack of understanding of DRR importance at the highest government levels.

6. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

i. Project Leader Country

MONTENEGRO – Directorate for Emergency Management

ii. Beneficiary Countries / Partners

Bosnia and Herzegovina – Ministry of Security, Sector for Civil Protection; Ministry of education

Serbia – Ministry of interior, Sector for Emergency Management; Ministry of education

Beneficiary Countries / Partners

FOUND; EUROPEAN COMMISSION, Call for proposals 2016 for prevention and preparedness projects in the field of civil protection and marine pollution (Improving the knowledge base for disaster prevention)

7. CONCLUSION

This project will provide creating of disaster risk reduction culture. It has an aim of changing the collective social state of mind from it's roots by emphasizing children education in DRR field from a very early age. This project creates a completely new culture that could define the future generations.