



**Republika e Kosovës**  
**Republika Kosova - Republic of Kosovo**  
*Qeveria - Vlada – Government*  
**Ministria e Punëve të Brendshme /Ministarstvo Unutrašnjih Poslova / Ministry of Internal Affairs**

**STATE STRATEGY FOR REDUCING THE RISK FROM NATURAL DISASTERS  
AND OTHER DISASTERS**

2023 - 2028

Date: 26/10/2022

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## List of abbreviations

<b>AME</b>	Agency e management Emergency
<b>FVA</b>	Food and Veterinary Agency
<b>KSA</b>	Kosovo Statistics Agency
<b>MPPS</b>	Midterm Priority Policy Statement
<b>CEFTA</b>	Central Europe Free Trade Agreement
<b>KSF</b>	Kosovo Security Force
<b>MD</b>	Ministry of Defence
<b>KIHM</b>	Kosovo Institute of Hydrometeorology
<b>PAI</b>	Prior Adherence Instrument
<b>KNIPH</b>	Kosovo National Institute of Public Health
<b>KRC</b>	Kosovo Red Cross
<b>MLGA</b>	Ministry of Local Government Administration
<b>MESTI</b>	Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation
<b>MRD</b>	Ministry of Regional Development
<b>MAFRD</b>	Ministry e Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development
<b>MFPT</b>	Ministry e Finance, Labour and Transfers
<b>ME</b>	Ministry of Economy
<b>MCR</b>	Ministry of Communities and Return
<b>MCYS</b>	Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports
<b>MESPI</b>	Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure
<b>MIA</b>	Ministry of Internal Affairs
<b>MH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>MFAD</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora
<b>FRPU</b>	Fire and Rescue Professional Units
<b>WTO</b>	World Trade Organization
<b>NPND</b>	National Platforms on Natural Disasters

<b>SAF</b>	Senday's Action Framework
<b>EIMS</b>	Emergency Integrated Management System
<b>PRHS</b>	Protection, Rescue and Help Structures
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Program
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
<b>UNISDR</b>	United Nations Office For Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>OPM</b>	Office of the Prime Minister
<b>DRR</b>	Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>DSO</b>	Distribution System Operator

## Overview

The State Strategy on Risk Reduction from Natural Disasters and Other Disasters (hereinafter referred to as disasters) and the Action Plan 2023-2028, is the second document drawn up by the Government of the Republic of Kosovo that aims to reduce the risk from disasters.

It is clear that disasters can have a significant negative impact on people and the economy and that disaster risk reduction should be a national priority. The nature, prevalence and cost of disasters require the inclusion of disaster risk reduction at the central and local level. Disaster risk reduction strategies and activities contribute to reducing disaster risk and its negative impacts, as well as achieving sustainable development and poverty alleviation, by facilitating the integration of disaster risk reduction in development and in efficient and effective decision-making.

This strategic document aims to reduce the risk of disasters and serve as a framework for reducing the risk of disasters at the country level, through activities that will be planned and implemented by the Institutions of the Republic of Kosovo.

The strategy is based on five strategic pillars or objectives which are fully harmonized with other national and international documents.

## **1. Introduction**

The State Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction and Action Plan 2023-2028 is a strategic document that defines the policies and measures taken to reduce disaster risk in Kosovo. Disasters in Kosovo pose a risk to life, material goods, cultural heritage and the environment in general. In fact, the entire economic and social development process of the country is affected by the risks of disasters, which often cost millions of euros to the economy, and especially affect communities in need. Being a new state, Kosovo has not yet established full capacities for disaster risk reduction in all phases of the emergency management cycle. This strategy, which includes the period 2023 - 2028, is a basic document that aims to coordinate the work of institutions at the local level, line ministries, the private sector, civil society, NGOs, as well as local and foreign donors, to reduce the risk of disasters and at the same time contributing to the sustainable development of Kosovo. This document will serve as a basis for risk reduction for the Republic of Kosovo and as such serves as a foundation on which programs and plans for disaster risk reduction will be drawn up and activities will be coordinated for years to come.

The strategic and specific objectives have been determined after a consultation process with all institutional representatives for risk reduction and other external representatives such as civil society, the academic world and international partners. The strategy is also based on preliminary analyses carried out in cooperation with local and international partners.

In the State Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction 2023-2028, concrete actions and measures are recommended in order to address the identified challenges and improve the situation in reducing the risk of disasters. In this direction, actions have been foreseen in order to improve the national mechanism, to implement coordinated actions to reduce the risk and to strengthen central and local cooperation up to the community and family.

All these actions have been recommended as a result of the assessment of the current situation in the country and in the local, regional and global context in relation to risk reduction, the results of the comprehensive analysis of legal documents, by-laws and other empirical analyses resulting from various researches implemented during the past years. Consequently, addressing the recommended actions is expected to have a positive impact on addressing the gaps identified in the system, and at the same time enabling the advancement and strengthening of disaster risk reduction.

The Action Plan is drawn up in accordance with the strategic objectives, specific objectives and planned activities that help to fulfil the specific objectives towards the achievement of the strategic objectives.

### **1.1. Objective**

Orienting policies and strengthening the comprehensive approach to disaster risk reduction, with the aim of minimizing damage from Natural Disasters and other Disasters to the smallest extent possible.

## 1.2. Vision

Disaster risk reduction by preventing new risks, reducing existing risks, and managing remaining disaster risk in the Republic of Kosovo.

## 2. Methodology

The State Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as the Action Plan 2023-2028, was drawn up in support of the Annual Work Plan of the Government and the Ministry of Internal Affairs for 2022 and the National Program for the Implementation of the Stabilization-Association Agreement, for 2021-2023.

The strategy is in full harmony with Administrative Instruction No. 07/2018 on the Procedures, Criteria and Methodology for the Preparation and Approval of Strategic Documents and Plans for their Implementation, as well as the relevant legislation in force.

The working group for the drafting of the strategy was formed by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Internal Affairs with Decision No. 300/22, on 25.02.2022 for the drafting of the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy, in which all the relevant state institutions are included, while representatives from the OSCE are also included in the expert capacity. Aiming for a multi-disciplinary approach to risk reduction and the integration of these phenomena into development policies and plans in the country, the working group has been meeting on a monthly basis to monitor progress and plan next steps. Consultations were also made with ministries and other relevant institutions that are not members of the working group, so that the strategy is as comprehensive and meaningful as possible.

The group of experts has always, at different stages of strategy development, offered advice on the content of the strategy. Finally, some phenomena such as climate change, ionization and flooding are not addressed or are addressed less in this strategy, as these are covered by the respective sectoral strategies.

The drafting of the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy (DRR) was preceded by the legal basis found in Law No. 04/L-027 for Protection from Natural Disasters and Other Disasters, Administrative Instruction (CRK) No. 07/2018 for Planning and Drafting of Strategic Documents and Action Plans and the Risk Assessment Document from Natural Disasters and Other Disasters, drawn up on the basis of Regulation No. 25/2020 on the Methodology of Designing the Risk Assessment.

The Strategy for the 2023-2028 DRRO is in harmony with other national and international documents, such as: Security Strategy, Integrated Emergency Management System (IEMS), Climate Change Strategy 2014-2020, Sustainable Development Goals, determined according to the United Nations and within the HYOGO and SENDAY Action Framework for the years 2015-2030, the development of national resilience and the community in disasters, etc. In addition to them, in the case of the construction of the State Strategy, the European Union's Strategy for Internal Security and the European Strategy for support in reducing the risks from disasters in developing countries were also taken into consideration. The strategy on DRRO also serves as Kosovo's guide for membership in the "European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction".

The strategy drafting process is coordinated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The working

group, comprised of other ministries, are involved in the comprehensive and detailed assessment in analysing the current situation, identifying the challenges to be addressed with this strategy and proposing objectives and measures that will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the institutions involved in the implementation in order to reduce the risk, always being aware of the aspect of damage to human life, material goods, infrastructure, cultural heritage and the environment that disasters cause. During the meetings, the current situation in the field of risk management was discussed and evaluated, in which case activities were proposed that help the achievement of specific objectives and the realization of strategic ones, proposing improvements with a focus on reducing the risk of disasters. The approach has been very disciplinary, pro-active as well as in working groups with institutional representatives, the active participation of civil society in addressing the needs for risk reduction, guaranteeing the sense of ownership of this strategic document.

The determination of strategic objectives, specific objectives and activities is based on the data, findings and recommendations from the assessment process of the current situation as well as preliminary data extracted from the DeSinventar platform, the history of disasters in Kosovo and the reports of local and international parties, but also in the identification of these priorities and the determination of objectives in accordance with the government's priorities, as well as the current situation in Kosovo of disaster risk management.

The coordination of the drafting of this strategy belongs to the Ministry of Interior/EMA. The principles and responsibilities contained in this document guide disaster risk reduction across the country. As this is a state strategy, a State Risk Reduction Plan will first be drawn up, and each institution will draw up its own disaster risk reduction plan, unique to their area of operation. The power and opportunity for sustainable disaster risk reduction depends on the commitment of leading officials and government support.

### **3. General principles**

The structure and content of this document is based on the following principles:

**The principle of constitutionality and legality** - the actions taken to reduce the risk of disasters are based on the provisions provided by the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, the legislation in force and international agreements.

**The principle of comprehensive state approach** – prevention and reduction of threats from disasters is achieved through the involvement and close cooperation between governmental institutions, public, civil society, private sector and international organizations.

**The principle of freedoms and human rights** - means guaranteeing the freedoms and rights of all individuals, during all stages of the institutions' engagement in the prevention and reduction of disasters.

**The principle of confidentiality** - the institutions with responsibility in the prevention and reduction of disasters must ensure the preservation of the confidentiality of written and non-written information exchanged between the relevant institutions.



**The principle of cooperation** - The Government of the Republic of Kosovo is committed to respecting cooperation and coordination of activities between local institutions and international cooperation in preventing and reducing damage and consequences from disasters.

**The principle of reliability** - the institutions responsible for preventing and reducing damages and consequences from disasters, should prioritize building trust in the preservation of data and information from misuse by those who have access to them.

**The principle of proportionality** - means exercising the authority of institutions dealing with the prevention and reduction of damages and consequences from disasters, only when it is necessary and only to the level needed to achieve legitimate objectives, with appropriate means and methods, in real time and as short as possible.

**The principle of international cooperation** – prevention and reduction of disasters is achieved through international cooperation with states, organizations and initiatives. Through cooperation, the Republic of Kosovo will have an essential role in preventing and reducing damage and consequences from disasters.

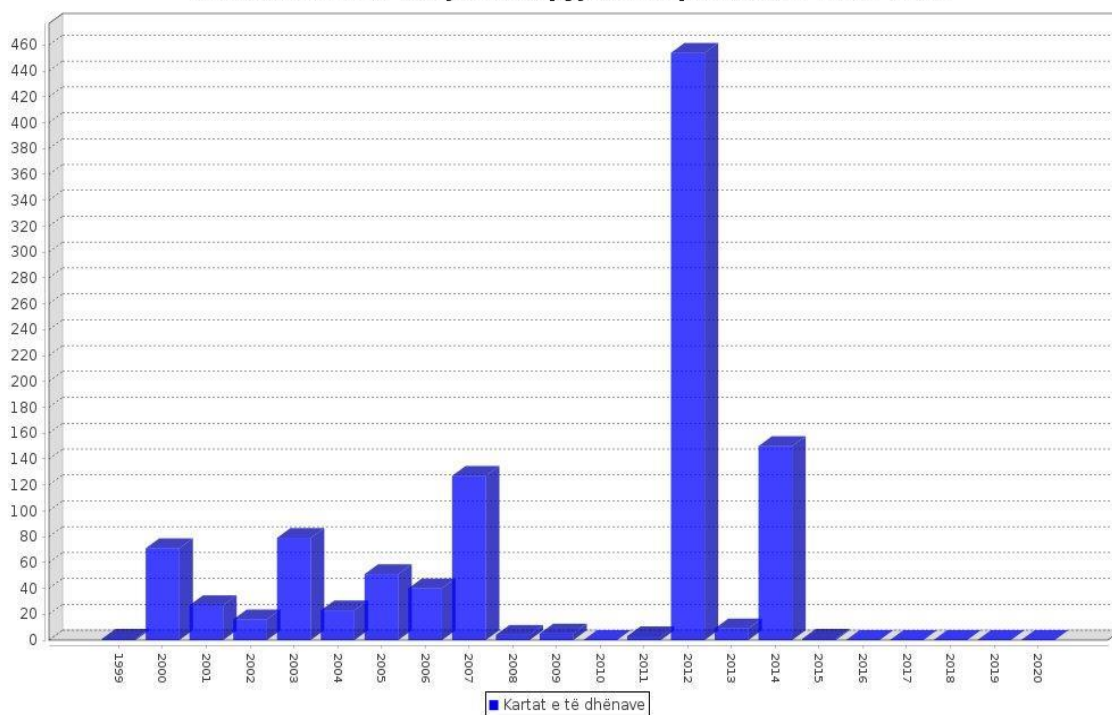
## **4. Analysis of the current situation**

### **4.1. Background**

The effort to reduce the risk of disasters in Kosovo, as well as in the world, is a problem that has worsened in the last 20 years of transition, due to the phenomenon of climate change, industrialization of the country, damage caused by war, informal settlements, the lack of plans and the non-implementation of measures for the preservation of the environment, the degradation of forests and riverbeds and the dumping of waste without criteria. Based on the statistics provided by the DesInventar platform, the number of disasters has marked an increasing trend over the years in the period 1999-2019, starting with the reflection of forest fires, floods, earthquakes, landslides, avalanches, biological hazards, such as and infectious diseases, epidemics, pandemics, with special emphasis on the Crimea Congo.

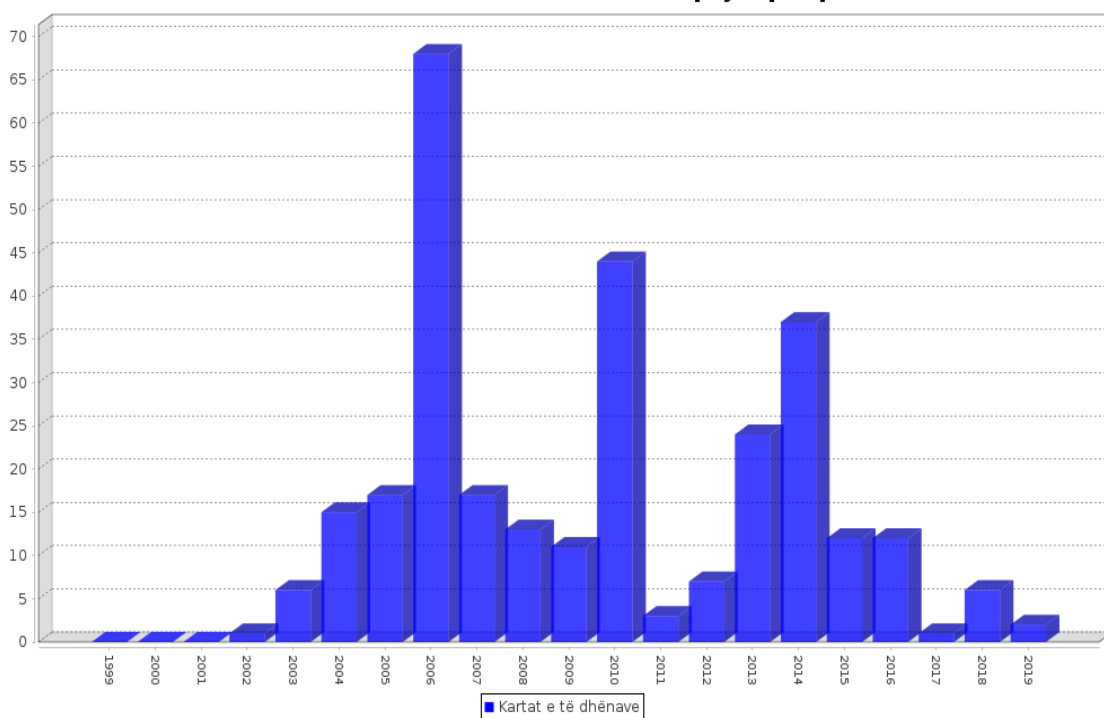
Below is an overview of the history of disasters in Kosovo throughout the years.

### Trendet kohore te zjarreve pyjore ne periudhen 1999-2019

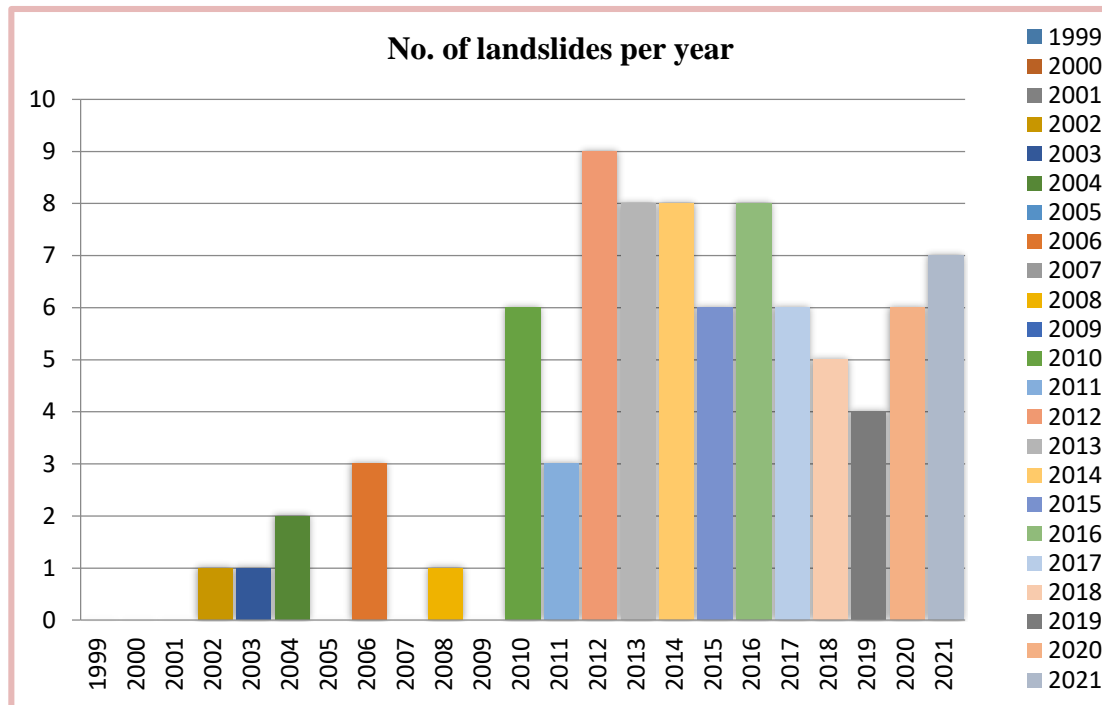


*Diagram 1. Time trends of forest fires in the period 1999-2019.*

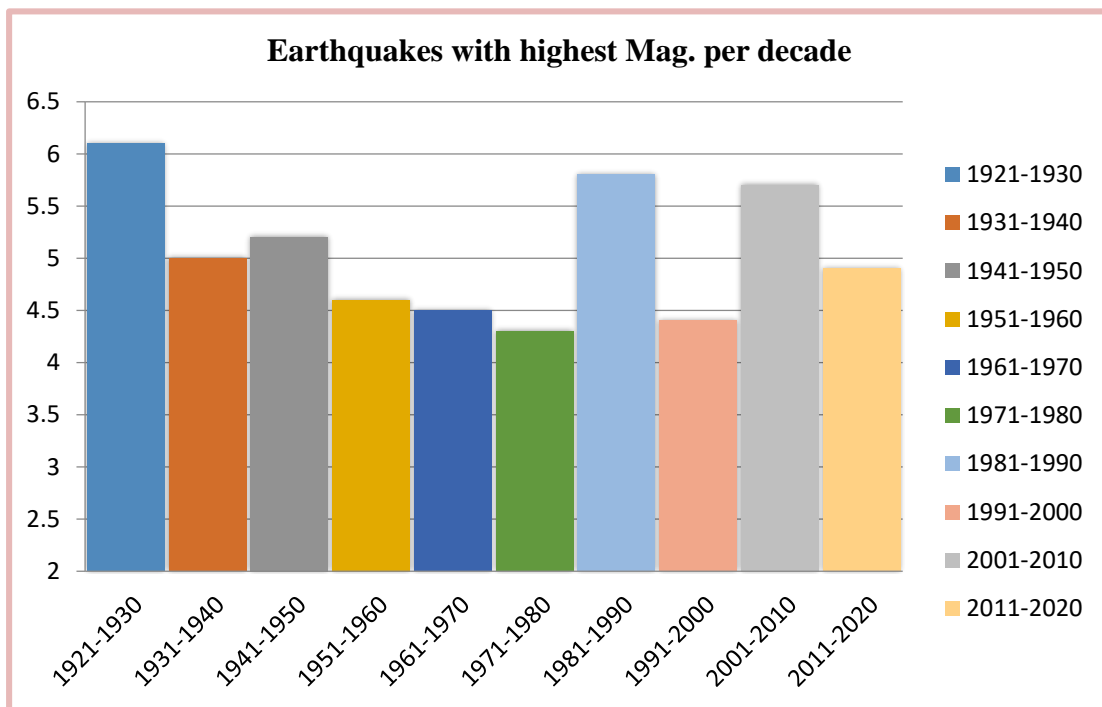
### Trendet kohore te vershimeve dhe vershimet e shpejta per periudhen 1999-2019



*Diagram 2 . Time trends of floods and flash floods for the period 1999-2019.*

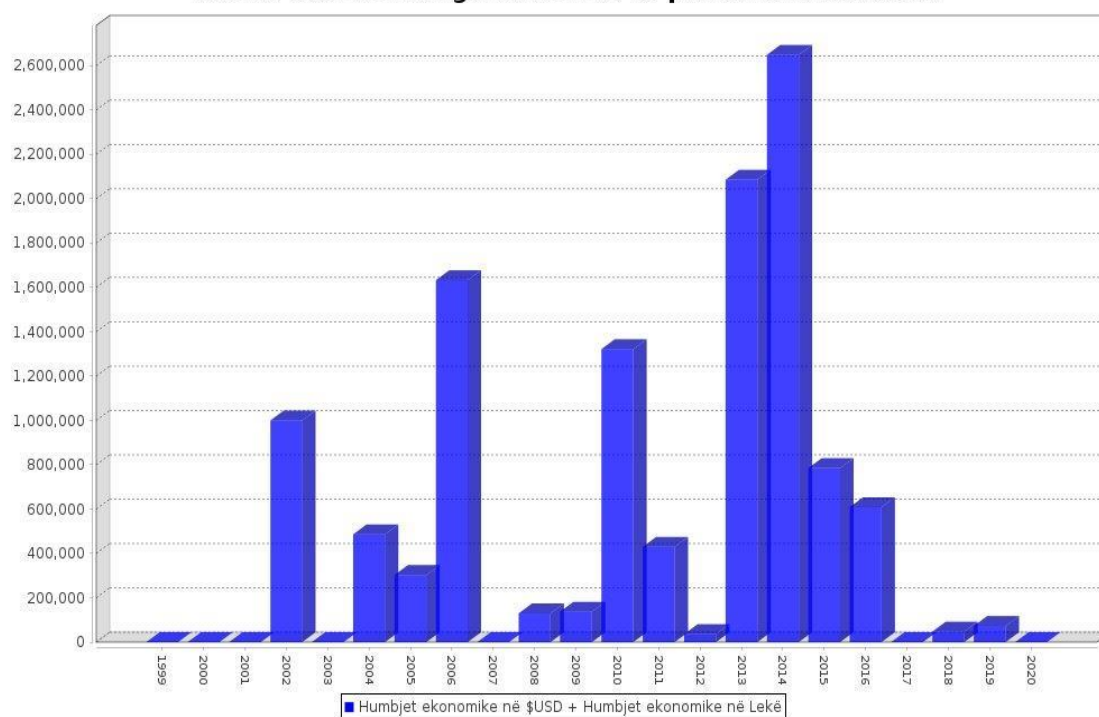


**Diagram 3:** Time trends for landslides, time period: 1999-2021.



**Diagram 4:** History of Seismic events for the period 1921-2021 presented with Magnitude, the intensity is variable per decade, the trend is an increase and decrease of earthquakes both in number and magnitude per decade.

**Demet ekonomike nga vershimet ne periudhen 1999-2019**



*Diagram 5: Economic damage (in Euros) from floods in the period 2000-2019 according to DesInventar Kosova.*

As for the main threats from communicable diseases in Kosovo, they have not changed significantly in the last five years. Almost half of the communicable diseases reported in Kosovo in recent years are diseases of environmental, food, water or zoonotic origin, followed by diseases that can be prevented with vaccines. Of particular importance for these diseases is the risk of rapid spread and emergence in the form of epidemics, with the possibility of cross-border spread.

Kosovo is and continues to remain an endemic area of infectious diseases that spread through water and food. In the last five years (2016 - 2020) a total of 9004 cases of gastrointestinal diseases reported as acute diarrhoea were registered in Kosovo. The year 2019 marked the largest number of cases (over 2394 cases). The most affected ages are children and young adults, with over 70% of cases.

The Republic of Kosovo is an endemic area for zoonoses such as brucellosis, tuberculosis and tularaemia.

In addition to the diseases that are recorded in smaller or larger numbers every year in the territory of Kosovo, there is the possibility of bringing some diseases from abroad. We mainly refer to extremely dangerous infectious diseases that spread easily and/or have high mortality - such as cholera, SARS, bird flu, Crimean Congo haemorrhagic fever, etc.

On January 30, 2020, the Director-General of WHO declared the outbreak of the coronavirus Cov-2019 as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), based on the advice of the Committee on Emergencies under the International Health Regulations (2005). The first positive cases with the SARS CoV2 virus in Kosovo were registered on March 13, 2020. From 08.02.2020 to 09.08.2022, the total number of positive cases with COVID 19 is 263,784 (13.57%) out of 1,942,455 people suspected of the SARS virus -CoV-2. Until 09.08.2022, 95.76% of the infected have recovered, while a total of 3,180 deaths have been registered (mortality rate 1.20%). Despite the considerable success in vaccinating the population, dealing with the pandemic continues even further, with a constant increase in positive cases and a real possibility of an increase in the number of dead. Considering the current situation in the world and the region, the end of the pandemic is still uncertain.

#### **4.2. The current situation**

The population of 1.9 million inhabitants of Kosovo is exposed to hydrometeorological and geological risks: fires, floods, earthquakes, landslides, snowfalls, avalanches, drought, strong winds (storms), endemics, epidemics, pandemics, zoonotic diseases and risks CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear).

Flash floods are common in mountainous areas, sometimes leading to mudslides.

Kosovo is also exposed to landslides, especially in Mitrovica, Pristina, Peja and Shterpce. Other risks that threaten Kosovo are river floods (in the plains) and new rainfall (in Pristina, Mitrovica, Besiana and Gjakova, due to the structural vulnerability of the dams in these areas). In some very exposed rivers with their basins (like the Drin basin, in the western part of the country) floods occur every two to three years. Between November 2007 and June 2008, three floods displaced 3,500 people, damaged homes and farmland, and prompted calls for humanitarian assistance from the International Community. Seasonal fluctuations in rainfall can severely affect agricultural production in regions that depend on rainfall for crop growth and lack alternative irrigation systems. Kosovo has faced drought several times in two decades (in 1993, 2000, 2007 and 2008). In 2000, moderate to severe droughts affected most of the territory of Kosovo. Since 2004, 80% of Kosovo's municipalities have at one time or another suffered from water shortages due to inefficient water management systems (Save the Children 2018). Forests make up 43 percent of Kosovo's territory and are particularly vulnerable to fires during the dry season or summer. Since 2000, the number of forest fires has increased, with firefighters and other relevant response teams carrying out 2,000 to 3,000 interventions in a year. Exposure to hazards such as drought, floods and fires is predicted to increase with climate change and the greater frequency of extreme weather.

Geographically, Kosovo is in the contact zone of two large tectonic plates, on one side of Africa that pushes the Euro-Asian and lies at its foundation. For these reasons, the countries in the Mediterranean area belong to countries with high seismic risk, including the surrounding areas.

The strongest earthquake recorded and documented in Kosovo is the earthquake of 1921, in the Viti-Ferizaj-Gjilan area with a magnitude of 6.1 on the Richter scale and an intensity of 8.5 on the Mercalli scale. The Seismic Zones (SZ) with the highest risk in the territory of Kosovo are: Seismogenic Zone Istog-Peja-Gjakova, SZ Ferizaj-Viti-Gjilan, SZ Prizren-Dragash, these are

areas that are traversed by active faults that can cause future earthquakes with a maximum magnitude of 6.2-6.5 on the Richter scale, while the areas with the lowest risk, SZ Leposaviq, SZ Drenica, and SZ Prishtina-Mitrovica, these are the areas that are traversed by active faults that may cause earthquakes in the future with a maximum magnitude of 5.8-6.1 Richter scale. (According to the Seismic Risk Map for the territory of Kosovo and the Harmonization Project of Seismic Risk in Europe).

The Republic of Kosovo has a rich cultural heritage from the ancient civilizations until today, which inherits a rich cultural treasure, which is an integral part of the world cultural heritage. This rich heritage can be found in every part of Kosovo, in: archaeological and natural parks and centres, in art galleries, photographic and film archives, in forts and towers, in cult monuments and settlements, in cobblestones and narrow alleys, in the fountains, as well as in its museums, collections of artifacts, handicrafts, etc.

### **4.3. The dangers that threaten the Republic of Kosovo**

#### **4.3.1. Natural hazards**

- Fires;
- Storms;
- Floods;
- Earthquakes;
- Landslides, collapses of rock masses.

#### **4.3.2. Risks in sensitive technical buildings – technical infrastructure**

- Dam damage.

#### **4.3.3. Risks during transport**

- Road transport;
- Rail transport;
- Air transport;
- Transportation of dangerous materials.

#### **4.3.4. Industrial hazards**

- Energy;
- Industrial accidents;
- Industrial and hazardous waste.

#### **4.3.5. Epidemiological risks**

- Water poisoning;
- Zoonotic / transmissible diseases.

### **4.4. SWOT analysis for disaster risk reduction in the country**

The following strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats related to disaster risk reduction in the country have been identified. These strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats provide a

better understanding of what has been achieved and remains to be achieved in terms of disaster risk reduction in the country.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Emergency Management Agency is an executive agency and is under the Ministry of Internal Affairs;</li> <li>• Laws and regulations covering the field of Emergency Management are in force;</li> <li>• There is risk assessment at the country level;</li> <li>• The Integrated Emergency Management system is approved;</li> <li>• The National Response Plan is approved.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no professional staff for disaster risk management;</li> <li>• The Republic of Kosovo has no emergency funds;</li> <li>• Failure to create Directorates for Protection and Rescue at the local level;</li> <li>• There is no law on disaster insurance;</li> <li>• Disaster risk reduction is not sufficiently integrated into development plans;</li> <li>• Lack of sufficient disaster preparedness at the community level;</li> <li>• Lack of alarm and communication system;</li> <li>• Lack of Early Warning Systems (EWS).</li> <li>• Lack of memorandums with governmental and non-governmental organizations in the field of civil emergencies;</li> <li>• Lack of infrastructure for state reserves.</li> </ul>
THREATS	OPPORTUNITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emerging risks such as epidemics and pandemics;</li> <li>• Climate change;</li> <li>• Local funding support declining;</li> <li>• Instability and resistance in some communities due to lack of information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revision and completion of laws;</li> <li>• Capacity to create partnerships;</li> <li>• Learning from good practices from others due to increased disaster risk;</li> <li>• Creation of an emergency fund at the country and local level;</li> <li>• Drafting of an insurance law for compensation of damages from disasters;</li> <li>• Advances in information and communication technology;</li> <li>• Exploring other methods of early warning</li> </ul>

	systems; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing volunteerism.</li> </ul>
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## 5. Legal framework and institutional mechanism

### 5.1. The legal framework

The strategy for DRRO is based on Law No. 04/L-027 on Protection from Natural Disasters and Other Disasters, as well as in the Natural Disaster Risk Assessment Document (approved in 2016, currently in the process of revision). During the drafting of this strategy, the inter-ministerial working group has also consulted the legal and by-laws in force, which are related to or encompass the treatment or regulation of the DRRO field, including but not limited to the following laws:

- Law No. 04/L-027 on Protection from Natural Disasters and Other Disasters;
- Law No. 2010/03-L-214 on Environmental Protection;
- Law No. 2011/04-L-012 on Fire Protection;
- Law No. 04/L-049 on Firefighting and Rescue;
- Law No. 04/L-230 on EMA;
- Law No. 06/L-031 on Pressure Equipment;
- Law No. 03/L-049 on Local Government Finances;
- Law No. 2002/09 on the Labour Inspectorate;
- Law No. 2008/03-L050 on the Security Council of Kosovo;
- Law No. 04/L-161 on Safety and Health at Work;
- Law No. 2013/04-L-194 on Public Finance Management and Responsibilities;
- Law No. 06/L-122 on the Ministry of Defence;
- Law No. 06/L-123 on the Kosovo Security Force;
- Law No. 2007/02-L-78 on Public Health;
- Law No. 2006/02-L-50 on Emergency Health Service;
- Law No. 2010/03-L-179 on the Kosovo Red Cross;
- Law No. 2008/03-L-040 on Local Self-Government;
- Law No. 2012/04-L-174 on Spatial Planning;
- Law No. 04/l-188 on Treatment of Construction without Permit;
- Law No. 04/L-110 on Construction;
- Law No. 2003/3 on Kosovo Forests;
- Law No. 03/L-02 on Environment;
- Law No. 2004/24 on Kosovo Waters;
- Law No. 06/L-039 2018 on the Kosovo Geological Service;
- Law No. 06/l-035, 2018 on Hydrometeorological Activities;
- Law No. 2004/21 on Veterinary;
- Law No. 08-L-120 on Food;
- Law No. 02-L-10 on Animal Care;
- Law No.04-L-120 on Plant Protection;
- Law No. 03-L-109 on the Prevention and Combating of Spreadable Diseases;



- Law No. 03 /L-244 on State Reserves of Goods;
- Law No.03/L-051 on Civil Aviation;
- Law No.06/L-043 on Freedom of Association for NGOs;
- Law No. 05/L-081 on Energy;
- Law No. 05/L-085 on electricity;
- Law No. 04/L-076 on Police;
- Law No. 04/L-036 on Official Statistics;
- Law No. 03/L-163 on Mines and Minerals.

The strategy contributes directly to the management of natural disasters and other disasters, as part of the Government Plan, in particular the objective “Conducting special studies in order to reduce, prevent, protect, respond and recover from natural disasters”.

Existing policies will be continued:

- Drafting policies, reviewing and supplementing laws for risk reduction;
- Drafting of the State Plan for Risk Reduction;
- Drafting of the State Plan for the Prevention of Disasters;
- Drafting of the State Disaster Protection Plan;
- Capacity building for risk reduction;
- Continuation of cooperation with the IPA/European Commission Program for capacity building;
- Establishment of the National Centre (QOMPb) for the Management of Emergency Situations;
- Development of the emergency preparedness exercise and assessment program in the field of general public safety;
- Drafting of the State Disaster Recovery Plan.

## **5.2. Institutional mechanisms**

The institutional mechanism means all the mechanisms that have a role and importance in reducing the risk of disasters in Kosovo.

Institutional mechanisms for the design and implementation of state policies in the field of disaster risk reduction are, but are not limited to, the following institutions:

### **National Coordinator**

The National Coordinator for Disaster Risk Reduction is the Minister of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, or one of the Deputy Ministers authorized by him, who is responsible to coordinate, guide, monitor and report on the implementation of policies and activities and actions regarding with the State Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2025.

## Secretariat of Strategies

The Secretariat of Strategies in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, has the task of monitoring on a regular basis the implementation of the strategy by collecting and analysing data about the implementation of the activities of the action plan, as well as by drafting periodic and evaluation reports for the National Coordinator. In addition, the Secretariat will assist the National Coordinator in coordinating the strategy and communicating with stakeholders.

## Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA)

Based on the mission and duties of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which is to take care of the rule of law and public safety in the entire territory of the Republic of Kosovo. Through its mechanisms and agencies, the Ministry of Internal Affairs undertakes disaster risk reduction activities.

## Emergency Management Agency/EMA

The Agency's mission is to support citizens and first responders to ensure that they work as one body to develop, maintain and advance our capacity to prepare, protect, respond and recover from all potential hazards, whether natural or caused by the human factor.

The disaster recovery cycle refers to the process by which emergency managers prepare for emergencies and disasters, respond to them when they occur, help people and institutions recover quickly from them, mitigate their harmful effects, reduce the risk of losses and prevent disasters from upcoming occurrence.

## Kosovo Police

As a law enforcement agency within the Ministry of Internal Affairs, KP has the responsibility in reducing the risks from disasters, relying on all the support structures within the Kosovo Police.

## Ministry of Finance, Labour and Transfer (MFLT)

MFLT will have an active and cooperative role with all the institutions affected by the Action Plan for the implementation of the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy, taking care that the activities and objectives foreseen are realized within the regular budget allocations.

## Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure (MESPI)

The role of MESPI, based on the mission and tasks, obviously has the responsibility in the implementation of the objectives and certain measures in the SDRRO with its supervisory role and active participation in the monitoring of the strategy.

MESPI through SDRRO aims to develop integrative policies of many different sectors in order to create conditions for the protection of health and the environment by FNFT in the field of radioactive radiation, construction, air, water and soil pollution, measurements of atmospheric precipitation, water surface and underground, the warning of the appearance of elementary hydrometeorological disasters, the technical professional, development and organizational solution for the maintenance, construction, reconstruction and safety of railways, highways,

national and regional roads, air traffic, as well as providing scientific and professional support for environmental policies of the country, while in order to reduce the risk of disasters, it collects data on traffic and safety, advises and informs institutions and citizens on the state of the road, rail and air network, as well as the factors affecting the traffic network.

#### [Ministry of Defence \(MoD\) and Kosovo Security Force \(KSF\)](#)

The role of MM/FSK in the implementation of the SDRRO includes the entire cycle of emergency management, but the primary objective of this institution is the preparedness and response phase, to carry out operations in the event of disasters in Kosovo and abroad. The operations developed by the MoD/FSK are mainly defence operations when the lives of civilians inside and outside Kosovo are seriously threatened, as well as assistance to civil authorities in response to disasters. KSF has an important role in search and rescue operations, removal of explosive devices, control and cleaning of dangerous materials, as well as other humanitarian aid tasks. MoD/FSK offers numerous trainings to various state institutions to increase the response capabilities of the population in cases of dealing with disasters. MoD/FSK also offers awareness campaigns and lectures in the schools of the Republic of Kosovo for the awareness of young people about the danger from explosive devices and other dangerous devices.

#### [Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora \(MFAD\)](#)

The role of the MFA is to promote and protect the national, cultural and economic policies of Kosovo in the world, the development of good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation of common interest, through bilateral and multilateral agreements that also include the field of emergency management, contributing to reducing the risks, as well as promoting scientific, technical-technological cooperation, the exchange of experiences and best practices for the DRRO of the respective countries. Creation of conditions for capital investment of expatriates in their homeland in order to reduce and prevent risks from disasters.

This ministry is the main contact subject for communication in case of a request for giving or receiving aid to support the country hit by disasters, but also for international cooperation in other activities in the field of emergency management.

#### [Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation \(MESTI\)](#)

The role of MESTI, in harmony with national priorities for development, is to ensure a quality system of education, which guarantees the safety and protection of students and school staff. This will be accomplished by creating safe school environments according to the parameters and standards necessary to reduce disaster risks. By including in the curriculum content that makes students and young people aware of and able to prevent and protect against disasters. MESTI will have an increased role in fulfilling the objectives of the SDDRO through capacity building at the central, local and school level in preparing for the prevention, response and reduction of disaster risks. Also, MESTI, in cooperation and coordination with other actors and institutions, will encourage and support training and exercises with various simulations that help students, young people, teachers, school staff, but also parents and the community to create the necessary skills

and abilities for to face different disaster situations. This would ensure a safe, healthy and stable school environment.

### Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development (MAFRD)

The measures to be undertaken by the MAFRD to achieve the objectives of the SDRRO are contained in the policy to assist the administration and management of the forestry sector, including protection, reforestation activities, self-sustainability, fire prevention and protection, disinfection against insects and diseases. various, licensing for cutting wood, control of hunting and fishing, offers veterinary services, including, among others, the prevention of animal diseases, zoonosis and the improvement of the quality of flocks and herds of poultry and in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, Environment and Spatial Planning oversees the implementation of health standards related to agriculture, forestry, rural development, fish breeding centres, quality control of food and agricultural raw materials in order to protect consumers and reduce disaster risks.

### Ministry for Communities and Returns (MKK)

The role of this Ministry for DRRO is multidimensional, but we are highlighting some of the functions that belong to this ministry based on the duties and responsibilities, as well as the specifics it has:

- Supervises the implementation of the strategy within its scope at the central and local level, turns to the communities for help, supports the development and implementation of the strategy in all municipalities by helping the integration of policies in the development plans by integrating the reduction of risks under equal conditions of to all communities and their members;
- Coordinates with ministries, municipalities and other authorities for the implementation of the SDRRO, always based on the principle of protection and self-defence in disasters while respecting basic human rights, in order to ensure the promotion and protection of the rights of members of all communities, paying special attention to the needs of women, children, the elderly and other vulnerable groups;
- Assists in the development and implementation of measures in the field of public information and other promotional projects for raising public awareness regarding the rights and interests of communities and their members for protection from disasters, as well as undertaking measures to reduce disaster risk in cooperation and encouragement of the private sector and businesses.

### Ministry of Health (MoH)

Monitors the health situation and implements relevant measures to prevent and control health problems by supporting the participation, initiatives and development of community activities related to health. Participate in drafting and the implementation of prevention and reduction of risks from epidemics and various diseases. This Ministry, through the public information campaign and other promotional projects, increases public awareness in compliance with health standards, encourages the development of health and environmental education to increase knowledge and competencies in the field of public health. Monitors and ascertains the state of public health, in

particular the impact of industrial activities, public services and economic activities, as they are related to the protection of public health. In cooperation with other relevant ministries, identifies the areas that must be protected for public health, creates the policy of activities in the health sector to promote the coherent development and implementation of measures for DRRO.

#### Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS)

MCYS has its role in SDRRO in undertaking measures and developing activities in the preservation, protection and presentation, restoration and conservation of cultural heritage, architectural heritage, movable heritage, spiritual heritage, integrated conservation and cultural landscapes, as well as inventory and documenting the cultural heritage of Kosovo.

#### Ministry of Industry, Entrepreneurship and Trade (MIET)

Provides direct technical support and advice in the procurement of external consultancy services for structural and fire safety assessment of buildings and lifelines (public utilities).

It plans, stores and supervises the activities of state reserves, related to the reduction of risks from disasters.

#### Ministry of Rural Development (MRD)

MRD provides development, implementation, monitoring, drafting and coordination of programs for regional development, socio-economic development, as well as information regarding new measures related to disaster risk reduction (DRRNFFT).

#### Ministry of Local Government Administration (MLGA)

The role of MLGA in SDRRO is to support and advance the local government in strengthening the structures for the supervision of this strategy and ensuring the implementation of the activities of the municipal plans for the reduction of risks and the inclusion of these plans in the local development plans.

#### Ministry of Economy (MoE)

The role of the Ministry of Education prepares and implements policies that promote economic growth and stability, enable the development of domestic business, promote economic cooperation to attract foreign investments, guarantee competition and a safe market, ensure a sustainable development and perspective of resources energy and mining of the country, ensure the development of the telecommunications and information technology sector, as well as guarantee efficiency in the administration of public enterprises, as well as plan the budget for policies, strategies, laws and plans for reducing the risks from disasters.

#### Distribution System Operator (DSO)

DSO is responsible for operating the distribution network and has the exclusive right to distribute electricity throughout the territory of Kosovo. The role of the DSO is to contribute to the implementation of action plans and obligations arising from the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy, supporting all processes with all the capacities it has.

## Kosovo Red Cross (KRC)

KRC is a voluntary organization that will support the Risk Reduction Strategy with all its sectors, especially with the disaster management and first aid sectors. This voluntary organization, through its capacities at the central and local level, will be a vital part of risk reduction activities in terms of sensitization, training exercises, as well as supporting first responders at the scene of the incident.

## 6. Strategic Objectives for Disaster Risk Reduction

### 6.1. Background

Disaster risk reduction aims at preventing new risk, reducing existing risk, as well as managing residual risk, and all these actions contribute to strengthening the resilience and resilience of communities and, consequently, to achieving stable social development.

Disaster risk reduction should not be implemented in isolation. To implement disaster risk reduction, international agreements and guidelines should be taken into account. The UNISDR2 SENDAY Action Framework for: 2015-2030 highlighted the following relevant strategic action points against which disaster risk management activities such as disaster risk reduction should be measured:

- 1) Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation;
- 2) Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and improve early warning;
- 3) Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and sustainability at all levels;
- 4) Reduce the underlying risk factors;
- 5) Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

Disaster risk reduction is closely linked to sustainable development. Development projects should be informed by disaster risk reduction planning and activities.

### 6.2. Development plans

More attention will be paid to making development more sensitive to the impact of climate (and global) change on land and water resources in particular, and how disaster risk management will be integrated into development planning. Without proper planning, we will have lack of adaptation to climate change which can greatly affect the long-term development of the country. Disaster risk reduction is influenced by a number of factors such as: climate change, economic and local and regional development, the capacity to implement planning, and the country must think carefully and in new ways to effectively reduce disaster risks. Managing the risk and consequences of disasters/possible catastrophic events/incidents in line with the national and international strategic approach to disaster risk management is everyone's duty through a partnership between local institutions, the private sector, NGOs and institutions international.

### **6.3. The five objectives of the Strategy**

#### **6.3.1. Strategic Objective 1: Integrating risk reduction into policies, laws and by-laws and development policies**

The integration of development policies, the review and completion of laws, as well as by-laws at the central and local level, taking into consideration the role of the private sector and civil society, requires multidimensional and adequate involvement in the field of disaster risk reduction. This strategy calls for policies, laws, by-laws and development plans to be reviewed and supplemented, as well as accompanied by monitoring mechanisms and a sufficient budget.

##### **Specific objectives:**

- 1.1) Review of development policies for efficient disaster risk reduction;
- 1.2) Integrating Risk Reduction into laws and by-laws;
- 1.3) Inter-institutional integration of disaster risk reduction policies, as well as the implementation of legality in order to manage and govern risks; and
- 1.4) Increasing financial support for disaster risk reduction.

#### **6.3.2. Strategic Objective 2: Capacity building for disaster risk reduction**

The development and strengthening of capacities for disaster risk reduction is based on the SENDAY framework and through three components, according to risk understanding, according to vulnerability and considering capacity building. Likewise, care must be taken against new risks, therefore human and technical capacities must be developed and strengthened, as well as investments must be made in cooperation to increase scientific capacities and in systems that produce the necessary warning information, recorded, researched, predicted, analysed and modelled for disasters that may threaten the country.

##### **Specific objectives:**

- 2.1) Strengthening the capacities for the DDRO, through the recognition of risk and vulnerability;
- 2.2) Increasing skills for infrastructure maintenance, modernization and digitalization, for DRRO;
- 2.3) Establishment and development of systems for efficient disaster risk reduction; and
- 2.4) Creating safe and resilient communities from disasters.

#### **6.3.3. Strategic Objective 3: Increasing awareness of disaster risk reduction**

This strategic objective aims to promote various activities that will raise awareness and prepare communities to successfully face all types of risks. Resilience of communities will be achieved through education, sensitization and awareness in order to gain skills and abilities for risk reduction and management.



**Specific objectives:**

- 3.1) Raising awareness of the DRRO through information sharing, strategic partnerships, education and training; and
- 3.2) Promotion and development of instruments and programs that design standards, codes, operating instructions, plans, projects, etc.

**6.3.4. Strategic Objective 4: Strengthening of information and database management mechanisms**

The strengthening of information management mechanisms will be achieved through the improvement of communication, coordination, collection and distribution of information, among the relevant institutions, by a National Fusion Centre, which will strongly influence the reduction of the risk of disasters.

**Specific objectives:**

- 4.1) Improving communication and information exchange between institutions; and
- 4.2) Strengthening and implementation of information and technology management knowledge for DRRO in all sectors.

**6.3.5. Strategic Objective 5: Climate change preparedness and adaptation**

This objective will be achieved through the identification and assessment of risks and the degree of vulnerability. Emergency Operational Plans, Contingency Plans will be drawn up, training and certifications will be organized, as well as the Program and Plans for Exercises and Readiness Assessment will be drawn up.

**Specific objectives:**

- 5.1) Identifying risks and their causes;
- 5.2) Assessment and analysis of risks;
- 5.3) Inspection of hazards;
- 5.4) Risk monitoring;
- 5.5) Environmental management and adaptation to the DRRO; and
- 5.6) Strengthening disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

**7. Agreements for integrated institutional capacities for disaster risk reduction**

In 2005, UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/59/231: called on governments to establish national platforms or focal points for disaster risk reduction, encouraged governments to strengthen platforms where they existed, and asked the United Nations system to provide appropriate support to those mechanisms, where the objectives of a national platform were identified as:



- Increasing national leadership and commitment to sustainable disaster risk reduction and implementation of the HYOGO and SENDAY Framework;
- Increasing cooperation and coordination between national actors in order to increase the levels of knowledge and skills for reducing the risk of disasters;
- Increasing national commitment to help the most vulnerable and endangered population;
- Serve as the national focal point in the UNISDR system and strengthen links with the UNISDR secretariat and Task Force.

The institutional basis for disaster risk reduction, however, should not depend only on national structures and initiatives. In fact, as mentioned above, effective disaster risk reduction should be a bottom-up rather than a top-down approach.

The following figures illustrate the institutional levels and arrangements for disaster risk reduction in the country and highlight the strategic importance of the local level and communities in disaster risk reduction. The first figure shows the strategic levels at which they will implement disaster risk reduction in the country, and the second figure shows the responsibilities, inputs and integration between stakeholders related to disaster risk reduction.

Fig:1

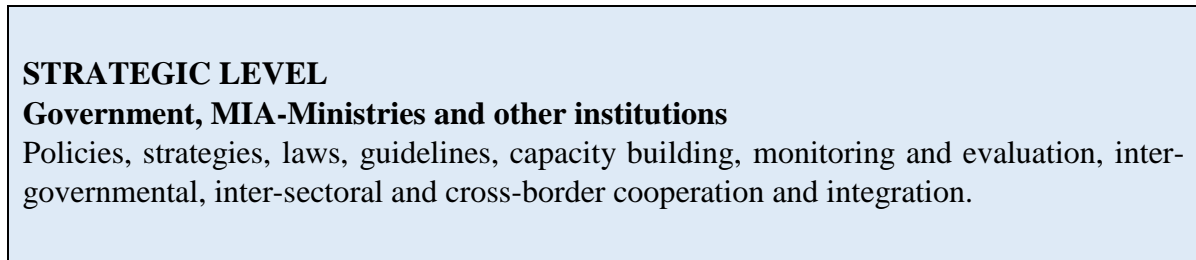
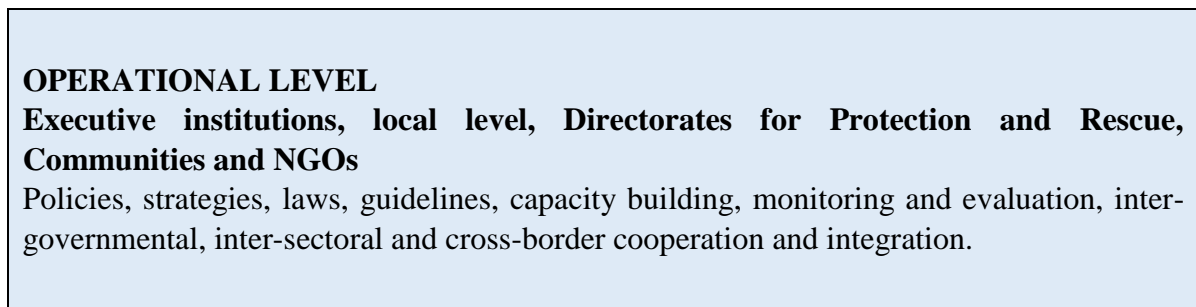


Fig: 2



Figures 1 and 2: Levels where disaster risk reduction is implemented in the country.

## 8. Monitoring and reporting mechanisms of the 2023-2025 Strategy and Action Plan

The monitoring mechanism will correspond to the principles defined in the Administrative Instruction (CRK) No. 07/2018 for Planning and Drafting of Strategic Documents and Action

Plans, in the Manual for Planning, Drafting and Monitoring of Strategic Documents and their Action Plans.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs is responsible for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the Natural and Other Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy 2023-2028 and for taking actions, if necessary, to ensure timely and effective implementation. of enforcement activities. The authority responsible for the preparation of reports according to the mandate is the Secretariat for Strategies, which operates within the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

### **8.1. Strategic implementation directives and priorities for strategic change**

The following strategic directives for disaster risk reduction, which will be implemented for the next five years:

- The principles of cooperation, effective communication and information management, reporting and harmonization (common standards of practice) of planning and implementation for disaster risk management shall be respected at all times by all institutions, stakeholders and role players.
- Training, capacity building and research on disaster risk management will be carried out continuously by all institutions, stakeholders and role players.
- The involvement and cooperation of non-governmental role players and specialists, as well as the inclusion of relevant historical and indigenous information and knowledge on disaster risks, will be ensured by all institutions, stakeholders and role players.
- All institutions, stakeholders and actors will carry out detailed research, receive all necessary technical advice and inputs and guide and monitor the implementation of disaster risk management through cooperation, communication and information dissemination in a constant manner.
- International and cross-border cooperation and integration will be further ensured by all institutions, stakeholders and role players.
- The state will be responsible for leading and monitoring the implementation of these directives and implementing its own legislative or assigned functions within the country, but detailed planning and implementation of disaster risk reduction must be executed by all institutions, stakeholders and role players.
- Disaster risk reduction planning and risk reduction is the responsibility of all institutions, stakeholders and actors in the country, working with disaster risk management officials, but disaster response, recovery and rehabilitation remains the primary responsibility of the institution that has ownership and/or legislative or assigned responsibility over the area and/or assets affected by a potential catastrophic incident, working with all relevant institutions, stakeholders and role players, whether or not a state of emergency has been declared disaster.

### **8.2. Strategic implementation directives and priorities for strategic change**

strategy implementation process will aim at fulfilling the strategic, specific objectives and activities. Monitoring and evaluation of the results of objectives and activities will be an integral part of the strategy process, as well as key in its fulfilment.

Through monitoring, the continuous and systematic collection of data will be done to measure the progress and applicability of the Action Plan. The evaluation will be done on a regular periodic basis, every 1 year but also ad-hoc, through which the implementation of the Action Plan, the impact in practice will be evaluated. The evaluation process will result in the review of the Action Plan activities, ensuring the planning of the necessary activities for the effective implementation of the strategic objectives and harmonization with local, regional and global risk trends.

The main dimensions of monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy Action Plan are:

- Institutional capacity;
- Monitoring indicators throughout and at the end of the three-year period;
- Information sources and measurement instruments.

### **8.3. Institutional capacity for monitoring and evaluation**

The monitoring and evaluation system will be expanded to cover all institutions responsible for achieving the objectives defined in the Strategy and Action Plan.

Each stakeholder should identify their role in disaster risk reduction as part of their disaster risk management and disaster risk reduction planning. All sectors and ministries should include disaster risk reduction in their annual strategic planning processes:

- The National Coordinator for DRRO, as the leading institution for coordinating the fulfilment of objectives, will monitor the indicators of the Strategy for DRRO;
- The Secretariat of Strategies will monitor the implementation of the Action Plan on a regular basis, collecting quarterly, six-monthly, nine-monthly, annual and ad-hoc reports from all relevant institutions and will draw up analytical reports on the implementation of the strategy as needed;
- Ministries, implementing bodies and other institutions with tasks in the Action Plan will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the activities that have been allocated to them or their subordinate institutions. These institutions will submit their quarterly, six-monthly, nine-monthly and annual reports to the Secretariat of Strategies.
- Non-governmental organizations and the private sector should be involved in reporting.
- Non-governmental organizations and international organizations will participate in the monitoring and evaluation process of the strategy, strengthening all inclusiveness, transparency and accountability.

### **8.4. Indicators for monitoring and evaluation**

Each activity within the Action Plan has relevant qualitative and quantitative indicators that will serve during the monitoring and evaluation process.

### **8.5. Monitoring and evaluation instruments**

- Administrative/statistical data from various relevant actors;
- Annual strategy implementation report and other ad-hoc reports;
- External reports from the private sector, NGOs - local and international as well as
- Various surveys.

## 9. Action Plan

The Action Plan of this Strategy is in accordance with the state policies for DRRO and in full harmony with the framework of the State Strategy for DRRO.

The Action Plan will be reviewed at the end of each year in order to ensure the implementation of the Strategy and harmonization with the trends of the SENDAY International Framework, for DRRO at the global level.

The Action Plan for the implementation of this strategy includes:

- Strategic objectives;
- Specific objectives;
- Concrete activities for implementation;
- Determining the institutions responsible for the fulfilment of each objective;
- Specifying the time frame for the fulfilment of each activity;
- Determining the necessary financial resources for the development of activities;
- Determination of indicators for the implementation of each objective and activity, and
- Appendix of general disaster risk reduction activities for specific risk categories.