ACTED

Community-Based Disaster Risk Management in Central Asia

OVERVIEW

Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) is a process of disaster risk management wherein at-risk communities are actively engaged in the identification, analysis, treatment, monitoring, and evaluation of disaster risks to reduce their vulnerabilities and enhance their capacity to be resilient when disasters occur.

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

The Kyrgyz Republic experiences between 3,000 and 5,000 earthquakes every year, with large-scale catastrophes taking place every 5-10 years. On average, destruction and loss from earthquakes totals up to 25-30 million USD per year according to the World Bank. Floods, mudslides, rock slides, avalanches, and other natural hazards are also common throughout the Kyrgyz Republic.

CBDRM lessons learned in the Kyrgyz Republic include:
1. **Promoting Ownership**
2. **Identifying Risks & Increasing Early Warning Networks**
3. **Creating a Culture of Preparedness**
4. **Minimising Risks**

CBDRM best practices in the Kyrgyz Republic include:
- **Creating mapping tools** as a DRR planning mechanisms;
- **Facilitating infrastructure improvement** activities;
- **Strengthening regional and local emergency services** disaster response capabilities; and
- Creating a system of **community-based monitoring** and **Early Warning Mechanisms**;
- **Coordinating responses to natural disasters** by stakeholders, actors, and beneficiaries; and
- **Strengthening the capacity of government institutions** by providing useful tools for CBDRM assessments and plans

Arzikon, from Kulundu *aiyl okmotu*, coordinating safe and timely responses to natural hazards.

TAJIKISTAN

Ilhom, a member of the local *mahalla* committee in Vorukh *jamoat*, engaged in a disaster response drill.

Tajikistan's key vulnerable areas are the glacier-dependent river basins supplying hydro power and water resources for irrigation, fragile mountain ecosystems and isolated forests with mountainous and riverine terrain which are prone to landslides and land degradation.

CBDRM lessons learned in Tajikistan include:
1. **Integrating bottom-up & top-down approaches**
2. **Risk mitigating activities saves lives, property, and livelihoods**
3. **Constant monitoring minimises hazard risks**
4. **Involving micro-, meso-, and macro-level actors facilitates rapid responses when hazards occur**

CBDRM best practices in Tajikistan include:
- **Developing the capacities of at-risk communities** in vulnerable places to anticipate, protect against, prepare for, and cope with disasters and natural hazards;
- Engaging communities in **developing risk mitigation plans**;
- Identifying and **establishing community safe havens**;
- **Strengthening** risk assessment, monitoring and early-warning **capacities**;
- Facilitating disaster responses by **linking micro-, meso-, and macro-level actors**.