

KAZAKHSTAN

I. Natural hazards in Kazakhstan

1.1 Natural hazards likely to affect the country

Wind storm, slides, flood, epidemic, extreme temperature, earthquake, wild fires

1.2 Recent major disasters

year	dis_subset	killed	total_affected	dam (US '000s)
2005	Flood	0	25000	7662
2004	Landslide	48	—	—
2003	Earthquake	3	36626	—

*Source: "EM-DAT: The OFDA/CRED International Disaster Database
www.em-dat.net - Universite Catholique de Louvain - Brussels - Belgium"*

Description of recent major disasters and response activities

In May 2003, the Zhambyl region was hit by an earthquake with a magnitude of 5.4 on the Richter scale. The earthquake affected 43,300 people and brought devastation to housing and social infrastructure. The consequences of the earthquake showed that neither people nor the local administrative authorities, including medical centers, were prepared for such disasters. Civil society was not informed, not prepared and was actively involved in rehabilitation of the area.

One of the lessons learnt during the recent earthquake was that the scale of the disaster would have been less if the local population had been adequately informed about the potential dangers of a catastrophic earthquake and the measures needed to mitigate the possible effects. Given that, according to expert forecasts, an earthquake with significant destructive power could occur in the not-too-distant future, it is important for residents of the region to be prepared and equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to overcome the consequence of such a disaster. Currently, national disaster preparedness measures are inadequate since they fail to cover the majority of the population. In this context, early preparedness, awareness and the mobilization of non-governmental and community-based organizations - as well as local communities themselves - is indispensable for higher improved human safety and security."

Activities for recovery and reconstruction after major disasters

Flooding in east Kazakhstan in May 2001 lasted for more than one month, affecting 4,500 people and damaging roads and infrastructure in 28

settlements spread over 8 rayons in the east Kazakhstan and Semipalatinsk oblasts of the country. The National Society of Kazakhstan responded by providing immediate support to flood victims in the form of food, detergents, bedding and other essential supplies during the emergency response phase of the operation. Preliminary assessments indicate that despite efforts to save crops around 60% of the affected population failed to save any food stocks for the coming winter period. The local sanitary services managed to prevent serious outbreaks of water-borne and infectious diseases¹.

II. Disaster Management system

1. Administrative system

<i>Conventional long form:</i>	Republic of Kazakhstan
<i>Conventional short form:</i>	Kazakhstan
<i>Government type:</i>	republic; authoritarian presidential rule, with little power outside the executive branch
<i>Capital:</i>	Astana
<i>Administrative divisions:</i>	14 provinces (oblystar, singular - oblys) and 3 cities (qala, singular - qalasy)

2. Legal system, legal framework

The President's Decree enacted on August 21, 1991 created the State Commission on Extreme Situations.

In addition, the Law on Civil Defense and the Law on Emergency Situations of a Natural and Technological Character serve as the fundamental policies on protecting the people of Kazakhstan in emergency situations including threats from natural disasters.

3. Structure of disaster management

The Ministry for Emergency Situations is the prime organization at the central government, which carries out response activities for large emergencies and disasters. It controls industrial technical safety, coordinates measures on the prevention, supervises national fire service, and serves as the coordinating body for civil defense in Kazakhstan. Patterned under the US 911, the 051 response system was established in 10 large cities.

4. Priority on disaster risk management

Considering the threats faced by the entire country, the priorities of the government of Kazakhstan include the following:

- Creation of an Equipped Republican Rapid Rescue Group

¹ <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/01/170102.pdf>

- Establishment of an automated information management system for extreme situations
- Creation of a specialized mechanized engineering group for the development retrofitting old structures and facilities and for the construction of new ones. This group will also provide fast recovery and reconstruction works during and after a disaster strikes
- Expansion of the network on seismic monitoring to prepare for future earthquake events
- Stockpiling to prepare for drought seasons
- Capability building of experts
- Scientific research on natural disasters
- Regional cooperation for disaster reduction

III. Disaster management plan

The Comprehensive **Kazakhstan Natural Disaster Preparedness Plan** serves as a guide for central and local governments in the country in implementing measures on disaster reduction. It was formulated with the assistance of UNDP².

Project Director: Chairman of Emergency Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Dr. of Economy - Sh. K. Kulmakhanov.

Project Coordinators: From UNDP - R. Dion, Program Officer; From Emergency Agency - A. Kravchuk, Director of Emergency Prevention Department.

The main principles of Kazakhstan Natural Disaster Preparedness Plan have been defined: to generalize to the fullest extent possible the problem of preventing and responding to natural disasters in the republic; to make the provisions of the Plan general and instructional; and to ensure that the Plan corresponds to an adequate extent to existing regulatory acts.

In accordance with this Plan, plans of all levels and directions should be drafted based on specific tasks and conditions.

Because Kazakhstan's territory is susceptible to natural disasters across a wide spectrum of types and scales, the Plan has been drafted to be generally applicable to all types and scales of natural disasters and is of

² http://www.undp.kz/library_of_publications/start.html?redir=center_view&id=90

an instructive nature.

It is proposed that the Plan be periodically revised and re-approved to ensure that it remains current.

The Plan is based on domestic and foreign management experience in the field of emergency situations, and the recommendations of international and local experts have been taken into account.

Structurally, Kazakhstan Natural Disaster Preparedness Plan consists of an introduction and five parts: General Provisions, Preparedness, Response, and Accountability for Failure to Perform or for Improper Performance of the Plan's Measures, and the Procedure for Approval and Implementation of the Plan, as well as conclusions and appendices.

IV. Budget size on national level

V. Progress and situations of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA)

VI. Projects on disaster reduction headed by the Ministry

Title: Local Risk Management in Earthquake Zones of Kazakhstan

Brief description:

In response to an umbrella initiative of the UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, Disaster Reduction Unit (UNDP/BCPR/DRU), this project is designed to support local level risk management. The project aims to support Kazakhstan in order to strengthen the capacities of local communities to participate in early warning and preparedness to earthquakes and to equip local communities with the knowledge and skills required for effective mitigation in case of natural disasters. The project is based on the results and lessons learned from the earthquake in southern Kazakhstan of 23 May 2003 and will promote the public private partnership.

Actors:

This project will be nationally executed. The Emergency Agency of Kazakhstan will be the Implementing Partner for the project and provide overall control of the project implementation. The Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan and UNDP Country Office, in collaboration with BCPR, will be responsible for selected project activities as described in the work plan. A Project Management Committee (PMC) will be established to oversee the project. The PMC will be comprised of representatives of the Emergency Agency, Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan and UNDP. PMC meetings will be organized based on project needs. The Chairman or Deputy Chairman of the Emergency Agency will be the PMC Chairman. A representative from the Emergency Agency will be appointed as the National Director of the project. UNDP Senior Manager and other relevant staff will represent UNDP on the PMC.

Programme Period:
2005-2009

Project Duration:
September 2004 - November 2005

Project Goals:

The project aims to strengthen the capacities of local communities to participate in early warning and preparedness for earthquakes; and to equip them with the knowledge and skills required for the effective mitigation of the effects of natural disasters. This project will raise the level of awareness of the local population, decision-makers and public on natural, technological and environmental disasters, so that they can better understand the benefits of prevention and preparedness. It will also promote access to information for civil society on disaster response and decision-making.

The project is built on the basis of partnerships between community-based organizations and various government bodies. These partnerships will help promote sustainable development through forging stronger linkages between disaster mitigation and broader development goals.

Intended Outputs:

Output 1. Survey of the most hazardous and vulnerable settlements; evaluation of the infrastructure, scientific and monitoring capacity and the preparedness of civil society; and elaboration of ways to predict natural disasters.

Output 2. Capable local communities and mass media in preparedness to earthquakes in the disaster zones of Kazakhstan and Almaty oblast in particular (via mass media, video recording and training) and risk management initiatives.

Output 3. Development, promotion and approval of the government's program on "Risk Reduction and Mitigation of Damages from Natural Disasters" and the allocation of government resources for preparatory measures.

Output 4. Effective administration, management and coordination of the project.

VII. ADRC Counterpart organization

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