

June_19_Small_Hall_002

Hello everyone, very good morning and welcome to the technical session on building a prepared and resilient Central Asia. We're very delighted to have all of you here with us to discuss the critical issues of disaster risk, climate change and other challenges, both in Central Asia region but also beyond.

And as we're all aware, climate change is becoming an increasingly visible issue and countries worldwide are facing the challenges associated with it. Scientists have warned us that 2024 might yet be another breaking temperature record year for the second consecutive year.

And Central Asia is no exception to these challenges, facing a wide range of natural hazards such as floods, droughts, extreme heat, earthquakes and landslides. And these hazards pose a significant threat to the recent development gains in the region, affecting millions of people and causing substantial economic damages.

In light of these challenges, today's session aims to raise awareness about the risks and challenges faced by the Central Asia region, which are also common to many other countries. We would also take today's opportunity to share with you some of the valuable lessons and insights that we have gained through the implementation of the EU -funded Strengthening Financial Resilience and Accelerating Risk Reduction programme,

which is implemented by GFDRR and the World Bank. Just a little bit about the programme. The programme focuses on improving financial resilience and risk -informed investments planning for all five Central Asia countries.

Under the programme, we have conducted capacity building workshops, a multi -hazard regional risk assessment, provided technical support on disaster risk financing, as well as social protection systems.

So we hope the programme, at least, has laid the foundations for greater resilience and risk reduction in the region, and very importantly, to promote regional collaboration amongst the five countries.

Today, we will hear from esteemed speakers from Central Asia and technical experts who have worked on the programme. They will present on various aspects related to how disaster preparedness and financial resilience could be strengthened, including institutionally, such as enhancing regional cooperation, technically about building evidence through risk assessment, and practical implementation aspects from the experience of Kyrgyz and Tajikistan.

We hope that through the experience of Central Asia, you will also be able to take away useful points for your own country and for your own region. Now let me first welcome Mr. Gatano Vivo, the Deputy Head of Capacity Building for Prevention and Preparedness Unit at the European Commission's Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Operations, DGECHO, for his remarks and to help us set the scene for today's session.

Mr. Vivo has 20 years of experience working on disaster and climate resilience, including in post-disaster and crisis situations. Previously, he worked for the World Bank as well as a team leader for various investment projects in Latin and Caribbean countries, and also with the Italian government.

Please, Mr. Gatano.

Thank you very much. Good morning. On behalf of the European Commission, I have the pleasure to welcome you all to this session on building resilience in Central Asia. As we all know too well, global warming is manifesting itself.

We just heard it from Qiyun in the form of extreme weather events all over the world, and the region of Central Asia is no exception to this. A wide range of natural hazards, floods, droughts, extreme heat, earthquakes and landslides are threatening human lives and are eroding the GDP of this region.

Science is telling us that indeed 3 million people are at risk and up to 1.3% of the regional GDP could be lost every year. And of course these numbers may increase if no action is taken. What does this mean?

It means that we need to shift the approach. We need to move from a reactive approach to emergencies to a proactive risk management approach. And this starts by increasing investments in critical infrastructure, and this starts by particularly increasing investments in those infrastructure which are critical for emergency management that help us preserve lives and livelihoods and ensure a resilient society.

At the European Union, we see Central Asia and its countries as a very important and strategic partner, and we stand ready to support them to manage the challenges that climate change is posing to the region.

In 2019, the EU adopted a new strategy on Central Asia. The strategy builds on several positive developments in regional cooperation and is supporting these countries to become more resilient, more prosperous and interconnected.

And in alignment with the strategy that we adopted in 2019, we partnered and funded the global facility for disaster reduction and recovery, GFDRR, as well as the World Bank, to launch this programme, Strengthening Financial Resilience and Accelerating Risk Reduction, it's quite a mouthful, in Central Asia.

The activities are implemented in five countries, in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. And the objective is to improve financial resilience and risk-informed investment planning in these countries.

There are three operational components. The first component is about quantifying disaster risk. The second one is about increasing awareness and capacities for financial resilience. And the third one is about mapping exposure for improving risk analysis and also improving risk awareness.

In the past five years, this programme contributed to enhancing preparedness in Central Asia and also to promote regional cooperation across the region. Just a few headlines on the results achieved by the programmes, which I'm sure we will hear more in a very few minutes.

Capacity building workshop for DRM professionals and policymakers. The first regionally consistent multi-hazard risk assessment. Comprehensive technical support to evaluate national social protection system and advancing some disaster risk financing solution in some of the five countries.

So today, in the session, we will not only hear about the results of this interesting work, but we also try to distill some of the lessons that have been learned by this programme so that they can be hopefully applicable and useful to other regions of the world.

And in this respect, I also wanted to add, I work for the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, which is a European framework of cooperation in disaster risk management across the EU member states and beyond.

We also have ten other countries which are not EU member states. And in more than 20 years that we exist, we have collected a lot of experience in disaster response, in disaster preparedness and prevention.

It's one of the success stories of the EU and we hope that we can also share our practice and our knowledge with Central Asia. With that, I thank you for your interest in our work and I look forward to a fruitful session.

Thank you very much.

Ladies and gentlemen, while we try to get the presentations running again, let me introduce myself. My name is Stefan Zimmerman. I work for JFDRR and I represent basically this organization, this tri-part partnership between the European Union, the World Bank and JFDRR.

Before I start, I would like to inform you that we have at the entrance a few suites that colleagues have brought from the region. So if you don't take anything from this session, at least take some suites on your way out.

So I have the pleasure to moderate this panel discussion today and the purpose is to hear from our experts, their experiences over the last few years in their efforts in reducing risks to natural hazards and to distill, as Gaetano has already said, the lessons from this work and share it with conference participants from around the world.

We will touch upon the main outputs of the program, but we will also hear of course from colleagues from their comprehensive work that they have done in the region. And also we will focus a bit on what are the key next steps, what are they going forward -looking, what are they pursuing next.

We have four panelists today and we will start with presentations from each. I'd like to ask the speakers to stay within around seven to eight minutes so that we have afterwards time for questions from the audience.

And let me then introduce the first speaker, which will be Ms. Elvira Torbekova. She's the head of the Department for Emergency Situations at the Regional Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction.

She will focus in her remarks on the important aspects of international cooperation and regional cooperation in Central Asia and how the program has helped institutionalize these capacities. The second speaker will be Dr.

Stuart Fraser. He is a disastrous modeling expert at JFDR and the World Bank and he will talk about the specifics of this first regionally consistent risk assessment for Central Asia. The third speaker will be Mr.

Marat Kirnasarov. He is the chairman of the Service for Regulation and Supervision of the Financial Market. This sits under the Ministry of Economy and Commerce in the Kyrgyz Republic and he will share his experiences with disaster risk financing initiatives in the countries and the progress they have made there.

And last but not least, we have Mr. Jamshat Kamalzoda. He is the representative of the Committee of Emergency Services and Civil Defense in Tajikistan and he will present the national situation there and how the program has helped influence and shape national priorities and targets.

If you're interested, please also go to the conference app, there you will find much more detailed biographies about each of the speakers. So without further ado, I would like to invite Elvira to come here and share her presentation.

All the presentations will be in English except for the last one which will be in Russian. But my colleague Madina, which you can see here, she will help us then translate for those who are not so good in Russian like myself.

Good afternoon everyone, it's my pleasure to be here today and I'll try to be short. First, I would like to tell a little bit about the center, the office of the center in Kazakhstan, Almaty City, and center is opened in 2060 as a permanent interstate body, international organization, which is created to provide an effective mechanism for disaster risk reduction.

And the center acts as a regional hub for facilitating collaboration among Central Asian countries. The second status of the center is a secretariat of the regional forum meeting of the heads of emerging authorities of Central Asian countries.

And since 2018, the center has the status of the regional resource center on monitoring and implementation of the center framework for DRR. And the last status is the affiliated member of the international civil defense organization, ICDO.

And one more status is the regional scientific and technical council. The center is a secretariat of this council and it's an expert advisory body of the regional forum meeting of the heads of emergency authorities of Central Asian countries.

And it's created to strengthen regional scientific and technical cooperation among emergency authorities of Central Asian countries, international, non-government organizations, scientific and educational institutions in disaster risk reduction.

And you can see three members are appointed by the emerging authorities of Central Asian countries, including national focal points of center framework. And one of the objectives of this council is develop scientific and technical proposals and give conclusions and recommendations for international programs, projects in disaster risk reduction.

And you can see in total 15 meetings were conducted with the framework of the World Bank program, strengthening financial resilience and accelerating risk reduction in Central Asia funded by the European Union.

And after each meeting, the experts gave their expertise regarding the reports which had been implemented by our colleagues from consortium. And the next slide is for the institutionalization of the regional cooperation in disaster risk reduction Central Asia.

Annual meetings you can see on the slide of the regional forum, it's a meeting of the heads of emergency authorities of Central Asia, ministers or chairman in some countries. And it's a mechanism for strengthening regional cooperation in Central Asia.

There is a five meeting had been conducted. The last one was in Kazakhstan last year. And this year it will be on the August in Kyrgyzir public. And in this slide, you can see the main outcomes of this forum, but I will note that the most main, you know, each minister knows his own risk in his country, but we developed the regional disaster risk profile of Central Asian countries, and it was noted the trans-boundary natural disasters.

And after that, based on this risk profile, a strategy for cooperation in disaster risk reduction between Central Asian countries for 20 to 30 years has been developed. And according to the UNDRR opinion, it's a unique strategy in the region.

And after this further roadmap for the implementation of this strategy also has been initiated and adopted. And next, in other slides, I will talk about rest of outcomes of the forum because it's much.

And 23 activities of the roadmap for the implementation of the strategy are completed. It was for 23, 24 years. And we support that after the forum, minister signs protocol with deadlines. It's not declaration, and it includes specific commitments.

And these steps should be completed. And because of that, I think we think that this roadmap was finished timely for 100% and that present a draft roadmap for 25, 26 years has been formed, and it will be presented at the upcoming regional forum in Kyrgyzstan in the August of this year.

And now I'll be short just on these next slides. You can see the strengthening the regional cooperation in Central Asia through the collaboration with ICDO. It was conducted changes for divers, for canning services, and for drones operators of the emergency authorities, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, for all five countries of Central Asia.

And the result of this training, you can see the rescue operations in Turkey. Five units which participate in the training, they participate in the rescue operations in Turkey. And we consider that is a good result of this training.

And for example, dogs of canning service of the Kazakhstan had no skill before this training how to find crops. But after this training, they had this skill. And this is also capacity building with the support of British company Map Action.

Also it's mapping in emergencies. This is also this JICA, or Chopin Seismic Safety, for all five countries. It had been this year. And also where the center is implementing the regional project at Climate Risk Management.

And the main goal is to create technical solutions for trans -bonded early warning system for hydrological disasters. And now for today, we have the main three regional initiatives of the center. It's a creation of regional emergency response coordination center in the Central Asia, like similar centers in Brazil, Brussels, and in Aja center.

The second is to make the digital atlas of nature. And many main trans -bonded hazards is to strengthen preparedness to the disasters. And the third is the establishment of the regional early warning and mutual notification system for disaster suites.

It's integration of the early warning systems of five countries of Central Asia. Because you know, yes, to the trans -bonded emergencies, they haven't bought any borders. And this, our work, initiates about the early warning system.

I would like just to finish. In 2021, the center took measures to improve the existing earthquake early warning system in Kazakhstan by integrating with the seismic sensor system of Kyrgyzstan. And this collaboration resulted in development of the prototype of seismic monitoring systems.

And it was presented on the regional forum. And the ministers of all countries agreed to establish regional early warning system. OK, in the last slide, and considering the significance of the public access to early warning system for various disasters, on November 10, last year, during the regional forum meetings, the ministers signed an appeal to UN Secretary General Antoni Guterres on the establishment of the regional warning system.

It was the last step in the establishment of the regional early warning system. And that's all for today, our initiatives in regional cooperation. Thank you for your attention.

Thank you, Elvira. A lot of important work that your center is doing. Thanks for sharing that with us. So Stuart, over to you on the risk assessment, please.

Okay, so I'll just give a brief overview of the regional risk assessment we did as part of this project this morning. It would be very short and a high-level overview, but we'll give a sense of the work that was done.

So at the start of this project, the availability of risk information in the region was fairly limited. There was lots of work done on earthquake hazard. Previous projects had had quite a country-specific focus, and we found a lot less flood information than for earthquake.

So this regional project was really designed to inform engagement on regional risk financing and insurance, emergency planning, and DRM, so multipurpose, but also to build capacity of local experts, institutions, researchers in mapping of exposure, so assets in there, their condition, their structural types, the development of risk information and the use of that information in DRM and emergency planning.

So we had a big consortium working on this, led by Risk Engineering and Development based in Italy, and they ran a consortium including international partners and a lot of local partners as well, shown on the top there.

It was around a two-year project, all in all, for the risk assessment, and the idea was to use consistent methods across countries to quantify transboundary effects. So lots of transboundary rivers, earthquakes occurring along borders with impacts across boundaries in Central Asia.

So we were trying to capture the full effects of those events, whether it was across one, two, or three countries. And it included earthquake flood risk assessment and also some landslide scenario analysis as well, but a big component on developing new asset data sets as well.

So on the exposure development, this was done on a regionally consistent basis to underpin the risk estimation. We're trying to develop knowledge of what is located where, whether it's the built environment or agriculture population, understand the condition and the attributes around those assets that determine how badly they could be affected if an event occurs.

So while we were going for regional consistency, we also had a lot of involvement from national partners who were bringing in information on building costs within countries, specific typologies, and the proportion of different types of buildings in those countries.

So we retained that country -specific information while placing it within a regionally consistent method. So on the seismic risk assessment, this analysis was built on a lot of work of local seismological institutes previously, and the focus of this was really to harmonize some earthquake catalogs that existed in the region, so the issue there being different recording of magnitude and invent characteristics in different countries and by different institutions.

So the consortium harmonized that to provide a new regionally consistent catalog, and that was used to develop a new earthquake hazard model. Some work was done also to build new vulnerability information for the different typologies found in the countries, so bringing together lots of different studies to see what a consistent view of vulnerability might be across that region.

And that risk assessment pulled out information on economic losses, population affected by country at the oblast level and at the regional level as well for extreme events, for frequent events, and for annual average impacts as well.

Also, the results were split out by sector as well, so we can look at the influence of residential versus transportation versus education and see where the most impacts were. The similar process was carried out for the flood risk assessment.

This was done for river flooding as well as surface water flooding, as I say, across transboundary systems including the effects of the many dams that exist in the region. We looked at hazard according to, in the undefended case, not considering flood protection, also making assumptions around what protection there was along the rivers.

So we produced an estimate of the defended case and various flood scenarios as well. And there were flood vulnerability codes developed on a very detailed level looking at the effect of flood on different components of different buildings within the region.

And again, we estimated the direct damage fatalities by sector, oblast, and different geographic aggregations. There was a regional landslide scenario assessment done with local partners bringing together lots of geospatial information, specifically looking at the potential for landslides to dam rivers and looking at the exposure of roads and rail and buildings, and there were a specific analysis of scenarios on particular transboundary routes and key reservoirs as well within that analysis.

One of the main things has already been mentioned several times, the capacity building. So there were a lot more workshops and longer workshops in this risk assessment than is usually done in these assessment projects.

These included tutorials given by the consultants, hands -on activities to get familiar with some of the processes in the data sets being developed. Each workshop built on the previous one, so there was that exchange of knowledge gradually through the exposure that has of the vulnerability, the risk process, but also crucially bringing insights from the local experts into building those risk data sets,

so clarifying the types of buildings, the types of bridges, for example, in a particular region, and making sure the data that we were developing really captured the local specific conditions. So some of the applications have already been talked about as well in terms of policy.

Within the project, we have used the risk assessment for funding gap analysis, for investigating risk financing and insurance options, and those are available for each of the countries as part of country summaries.

We've provided the data on the World Bank Data Catalog as well as working with Map Action and CES DRR to put that on the regional system as well, so all the data is publicly available. And very recently, we've been using the data in a rapid damage assessment.

James is at the back of the room here, and he's been doing a very timely flood assessment for the floods that have been occurring in the last few months in

Kazakhstan. So the data from this risk assessment has already been used and is available for use in those types of responsive analytics as well in assessing those effects.

So I'll finish up there, but hopefully that gives a brief overview of what's been done. As I say, the data and all of the reports are available openly. I'm happy to talk more in detail about any of it at the end as well.

Thank you, Stuart. May I now invite Mr. Pirona Sarov to present on the Kyrgyz Republic, please.

Hello everybody. First of all, let me thank the organizers, especially the World Bank, for the opportunity to take a part in this event and learn about valuable experience in the functioning of disaster prevention and protection systems.

I would like to give you a brief information about enhancing financial resilience to natural disaster risks in the Kyrgyz Republic. The Kyrgyz Republic is exposed to frequent natural disasters. Losses from natural disasters are expected to have high impact on people, livelihoods and government financing coming years.

In response to these problems, the Kyrgyz Republic became the first in Central Asia to introduce mandatory insurance of residential premises against fire and natural disasters. Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on mandatory insurance of residential premises against fire and natural disasters was adopted at July 31 on 2015.

As of today, there are 16 insurance companies in Kyrgyz Republic and 10 of them have capitalization from domestic capital and six of them have capitalization from the non-residents. The mandatory insurance program became a significant step in the development of the insurance market and ensuring social protection of the population.

This program, with its social goal, also aims to transfer risks to the insurance market. To implement the problem, there was created this state insurance organization, CIO, and since 2016, private insurance companies couldn't sell policies at low tariff rates.

To fully implement this law with the support of the World Bank, there was started the project enhancing resilience to natural disasters risks in Kyrgyzstan. This project has been implemented since 2018, together with CIO and financial supervision service on the financial market.

The main goal of the project is increasing the level of insurance services and building the capacity of CIO and private insurance companies to operate independently of state funding through improving insurance operations and enhancing the capacity to transfer risks to global insurance markets.

This will reduce the financial burden on the state budget in case of natural disasters by decreasing the dependence of homeowners on state financial assistance. The project aims to implement a modern web platform for underwriting and clients management.

The main risks of the project include developing an insurance model of a probabilistic earthquake risk model for the insurance market of the Kyrgyz Republic, procuring actuarial services to establish tariffs, developing a reinsurance program, strengthening the approach of managing insurance clients.

The challenges in implementing disaster insurance program is a risk for the government. The disaster insurance program represents an implicit, contingent liability for the government. In the event of a major catastrophe, according to World Bank estimators, the program could lead to losses exceeding 60% which the state insurance organization would be enabled to cover.

The private sector is not part of the program and therefore doesn't bear such risk. Low penetration is the next challenge. Since the launch of the program in the Kyrgyz Republic, only 11% of the population is insured.

Also, the next challenge is risk management at CIO. Establishing of an insurance pool. The regulation on the insurance pool for compulsory insurance of residential premises against fire and natural disaster was approved by the resolution of the government of Kyrgyz Republic on 2023.

The insurance pool for compulsory insurance of residential premises against fire and natural disaster is an association of insurers that is not a legal entity and is created with the aim of implementing the program of compulsory insurance of residential premises against disasters.

And at least the program, the regional program strengthening financial resiliency and accelerating disaster risk reduction in Central Asia implemented by the World Bank and the global facility for disaster reduction and recovery on behalf of the European Union is crucial for the Kyrgyz Republic.

In the face of frequent natural disasters and vulnerable infrastructure, the country urgently needs to improve its understanding and quantitative assessment of climate and natural disaster risk. This will allow for more effective identification, evaluation and modeling of risks.

Increasing awareness and strengthening financial resilience at national and regional levels will create fundamental opportunities for disaster protection. Collecting and utilizing new data on the susceptibility of assets to risks will improve risk analysis and management.

Contributing to increase readiness for natural disaster reduces its risks and ensuring adequate finance

Thank you very much for your insights about the Kyrgyz Republic. And last but not least, Mr. Jamshed. Mr. Jamshed, come also there, please.

I would like to thank the President for his support. I am very proud of the European Union and the Republic of the Republic of the Republic of the Republic of the Republic of the Republic.

Dear participants, many thanks for attending this conference and welcoming us to this forum and I appreciate you being here at the session.

Thank you very much for your time, Mr. President. Thank you for your time, Mr. President. Thank you very much for your time, Mr. President. Thank you.

We got together a decision to talk about the issues that Central Asia is facing with regards to disaster risk and climate risks.

Thank you very much.

and share the knowledge and lessons learned throughout the program of five years that was supported by the generous EU funding as well as the GFDRR and the World Bank within the region.

I would like to thank the president for his time today. I am happy that we will be able to make this happen and the people of the world's economic growth. I would like to thank the president for his time today.

I am very happy to welcome the president of Mexico, who is the president of the United Nations, who is the president of the United Nations, and his work on the world, and the economic growth and the economic growth process.

Unfortunately, annually, the disasters hit the countries of Central Asia more, and that brings a lot of the economic losses to the countries. With the exacerbation of the climate change, the disasters increase in its frequency, including floods, avalanches, mudslides.

I would like to say that this is an economic and economic issue that we need to prepare for today. The last meeting of the committee was the first meeting of the year. The first meeting of the year was the first meeting of the year and the second meeting of the year was the second meeting of the year.

The disasters that are happening within Tajikistan, according to the stats of the Committee of Emergency Situations on Civil Defense for the past 25 years, almost 4 ,000 disasters occurred and the economic loss of those disasters was more than \$600 million.

I am very happy to be here. I am very happy to be here. I am very happy to be here.

The most of the damage is caused by the earthquake as well as the mudflats and the floods.

I would like to make a video about the financial crisis in the United States, in the Paris - Lenya -Nacilena zone, where the material is used in the private sector, but I would like to repeat it.

A lot of the funds are dispersed by the government throughout the year to fight the disaster risks, the majority of which goes for moving the population to safer places as well as supporting them financially and strengthening the river banks.

Thank you very much.

As well as the government is spending money on monitoring the situation around the glaciers and the high mountainous lakes.

We support the UN Security Council and provide special thanks for the support of UN Secretary Needham and his own Secretary of State members, towide and to the UN Security Council, also in connection with the with the UN Security Council, we are proud of this order.

While our session is for exchange of knowledge and lessons, the program or the work within Tajikistan is also supported by the initiative under the Secretary General of the UN early warning for all where Tajikistan has been chosen as one of the 30 countries.

I would like to thank all the members of the community. Thank you. Thank you.

taking this opportunity to also talk about this initiative where, as I said, the country has been chosen as one of the 30 countries within the world.

Thank you very much for your attention.

The government of Tajikistan has started the work under this initiative last year in the month of August.

I would like to thank Mr. Rannan for his leadership in the region, and for his leadership in the region. He has been a part of the entire region, and I would like to thank him for his leadership in the region, and for his leadership in the region.

With all the stakeholders, there have been a roadmap approved and they were agreed that all the activities will be implemented under the DRR strategy of the country.

I would like to thank the Prime Minister for the support of this initiative. I would like to thank the Prime Minister for the support of this initiative.

As you see on the slide, there are four different committees that were appointed for different pillars, and that's Committee on Emergency Situations on Civil Defense for Pillar One, Pillar Two for environment protection.

Committee for TV and Radio is responsible for Pillar Three, and Committee of Emergency Situation is also responsible for Pillar Four.

Thank you very much.

So within the programs that Republic of Tajikistan has adopted, that's one of them is National DRL Strategy for the years of 2018 to 2034, as well as the midterm program that is lasting until 2023, or 2028.

Apologies.

I would like to thank the members of the S .O .S, Prudatrashini, Zashita, Spasinian, a platform I .O .S, and Android.

So there has been a lot of projects that are implemented by international organizations and other development partners, including the World Bank. One of them is the construction of the news center for crisis coordination within the city of Dushanbe, as well as the other regional cities.

And there's also the construction of the synologies and the training center and others.

My name is Rich, I am a global supporter of the European Union, a global founder of the PRR blog, for the help of the European Union, and I am here with the Foreign Minister of the European Union, for the support of the UN, the European Finance Agency and the European Union.

I also want to talk about the results of the European Finance Agency and the European Union. Thank you very much. We will continue to address this issue in the next few years. which is

As one of the past speeches, there was also the mobile app that is developed by the government of Tajikistan, which you see on the slide. It is on the platform of IOS and Android. Taking this opportunity to thank the World Bank and the EU -funded program,

Strengthening Financial Resilience and Accelerating Risk Reduction for all the work that has been done, and I hope that we can continue improving in the disaster risk assessment,

as well as using the results of that assessment and continue on supporting the region through disaster risk financing programs. Thank you.

I hope to see you in the next video.

Have a great day and productive sessions. Have a great one.

Thank you very much to our speakers and also for sticking to the time. So we have about 10 minutes left that we can use for questions and a round of discussion. So I would like to open the floor already to you if you have any questions that you would like to ask our panelists.

If so, please just raise your hand so that we come to you with a microphone. Are there any questions at the moment already from anyone? If not, I have prepared a few, but I'm not known for asking a lot of intellectual questions.

So maybe it's better if you do them, but if not, if you think it's better, I can maybe start with the first round to break the ice. Last chance. Maybe I start with our first panelist, Elvira. You have presented a lot of interesting initiatives.

So it seems to me, regional cooperation, international cooperation is no problem in Central Asia. I assume there are some challenges still. Could you maybe elaborate a bit on if there are challenges or what are good practices in order to come up with such an action plan that you have?

With a lot of actions, you're very good and you said you completed 23 of these actions. So 100%, can you give to our audience any examples of good practice or challenges

and how you overcame these challenges and what the center maybe does in order to facilitate that?

So if you could elaborate on that, that would be appreciated.

If you know, not everything could be ideal, yes, we always present the best of our practice, but there are not many, but we have gaps, challenges, and I represent the regional organization, and sometimes the main, always the main challenge is the limited financial resources here to implement some projects, because for example, if it's for Kazakhstan, the budget of the government of Kazakhstan has resources to,

for example, to develop some early warning system of Kazakhstan, but we don't have right or legislation, yes, to give some finance for regional projects, and because of that, we have a region of five countries with similar disasters, and sometimes it's very like our top in our work, and I think the decision of this is a support of maybe international organizations, like developing partners, and also,

I think we should have facilitate agency collaboration, it's also the one challenge, because for example, we have some project with drugs in this country, a project in Kazakhstan, and it was no concrete protocol of disaster response, I mean, drug response, because of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water, we have now a new ministry, Ministry of Ecology and Forecast, and it's Ministry of Ecology,

for example, yes, response is Ministry of Emergency, and the same, it's very, I think, large work in front of our region in countries, and also legislation framework, because we have some research with the support of IFRC, and the result of this research, it was gaps in the national legislation of countries, and its recommendations are prepared after this research, and the first fall to harmonize the national legislation to the international standards.

Thank you. Thank you. That's very good insight. So I understand technical gaps, funding gaps, legislative gaps. So there's still a lot of room for support that is needed. So, aye, very good. We have a question.

Let me bring you the microphone maybe.

Do you foresee in your region the development of something similar to the European civil protection mechanism of cooperation to respond to prepare and so on? So do you see something evolving towards such a mechanism between your countries?

In 2021, and by the decision of our ministers of Central Asia, foreign administration ministers, I mean, it was adopted the regulation on the regional coordination mechanism. It's adopted, but in the practice, it's not, we are just trying to, it will be work in the case of emergency, but we try to make some simultaneous exercises or how it will be work before the emergency, yes.

And now, the first step, it was that we had regional workshop last year with the support of IFRC and all representatives of emergency authorities of Central Asia, realized the importance of the creation of the response regional center for humanitarian assistance in Central Asia, like IRCC.

And we studied the, I told yes in my presentation, we studied the work of the IRCC AHA center and we have some steps, little bit, little steps by steps. And next week, the European Union DJECO head will come to our center.

And I think after this meeting, we'll have some steps for future collaboration.

Super, thank you. Are there more questions from the audience in the meantime? Yes, one, Kaitana, please.

I was wondering if in the recent years, in the recent disasters that the regions has experienced, if there was any occurrence of countries helping other countries in the region and if that happened and if there was any lessons from this mutual support after a disaster or during a disaster within the region of Central Asia.

Thank you.

Thank you very much. If, to say, honest, I have been working there, yes, in the center at that time, but it was the Uzbekistan, yes, Prabrakal, Sardoba, and at that time the center was like a bridge between governments and international organizations, and we have access to the government because they have not access to the government needs, and, for example, if to say about the flat on this year in Kazakhstan,

also, you know, the global mechanism, UN resident in Kazakhstan, she's the chairman in the case of emergency, and they have a special team, and this year we participate in all these meetings, and we help to forward the assistance from international organizations to the affected population of October region, and this year also we have some humanitarian operation related with the floods in our country.

For example, we have some experience in the framework of the one project with UNICEF. We prepared some store of humanitarian kits for about 1 ,000 people. It was prepared before, yes, emergency, and when the flood happened this year, it was ready to provide population with sanitary kits, and it was an example.

Thank you, Elvira. Any other further questions from the audience? Otherwise, I would like to thank you, Elvira, for all these elaborations. Maybe I bring the next question a bit down to the national level.

So we have heard about the risk assessment. Stuart, you presented how it's been used. It has been used recently also in post -disaster contexts. And we have heard from national colleagues that how it has influenced the policies.

But Stuart, can you maybe say something about the validity of this risk assessment? We have just uploaded it on the website. How many years can, you know, organizations, national governments use it? When do you think we should do an update?

Something about this, please.

Okay, every risk assessment will become out of date fairly quickly if there's lots of rural to urban migration, lots of urban development, lots of change in a dynamic sort of environment. So I think we should revisit to see whether it's still valid quite frequently, but obviously it's a big investment to do a full risk assessment, so at that point decide which components maybe you need updating, but maybe every couple of years revisit and just check in that it's still valid or whether it's giving results that we're not expecting,

but things change all the time, risk is really dynamic, right, so we're going to keep checking whether it's still valid.

But I would assume that after the chunk of work is done, the updating is less intense than it would take two years again.

Ideally, CESDRR would own a risk assessment and constantly update the information and keep it a live view of risk, but that requires lots of funding and capacity, which often isn't available to do.

Okay, thank you. I see you nearly 10 minutes over and I don't want to keep you from your lunch break. Any last burning questions that you would like to ask our panelists? No? Okay, three, two, one. Thank you very much for coming to our sessions, to this session.

Again, there are suites on the exit from Central Asia.