

FINAL REPORT

Mid-term Evaluation of the Cross-Border DRR Project in Kyrgyzstan & Tajikistan

German Red Cross
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Project title:

Support for community based institutional structures for disaster risk reduction (DRR) in selected countries of the Central Asia region



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1. Executive Summary

Short project description

The cross-border DRR project in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan was initiated in September 2013 with the overall objective to contribute to the resilience of cross-border target communities in both countries. The specific objective of the project is to strengthen the preparedness for response capacities of disaster prone communities and the National Red Crescent Societies of both countries on local and cross-border level.

The main focus of the project is the establishment of functioning Local Disaster Management Committees (LDMCs) for community-based DRR, the improvement of the DM/DRR capacities of the National Red Crescent Societies on local, district, provincial and national level and to prepare both National Societies to carry out joint cross-border disaster response operations in close coordination with governmental DM authorities. The project ends in December 2016.

Key questions of the evaluation

The mid-term evaluation was carried out in more than half way of the projects implementation with the main aim to assess the performance and achievement of the project against the objectives set. The main purpose of the evaluation was to identify specific learning and potential impacts of the project and to consider the most important elements for the planning of a potential next project phase. The evaluation focused on the evaluation of the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability, coherence, coverage and coordination of the project. The evaluation of community based actions and established structures were a priority to be looked at.

Key findings

The project is focussing on the most vulnerable provinces in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and the most relevant project activities have been the different DRR awareness raising and trainings activities and the establishment of LDMCs on community level, the capacity building components for the National Societies and small scale disaster mitigation activities. The project implementation is effective and efficient and there have been no major delays in the implementation and therefore the action plan is still valid. There has been no relevant over- or underspending, which implicates also a good financial management. The project has an enormous impact to strengthen the preparedness for response capacities on community level and within the National Societies.

The coordination with other stakeholders, mainly the governmental DM authorities is outstanding and due to this intensive coordination and cooperation the recognition of both National Societies by their government significantly improved. The project intensively takes into consideration the areas of operation of other (national/international) organizations and is avoiding duplication through intensive coordination with those stakeholders. It is fully integrated into the established coordination and information sharing mechanisms in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

The established LDMCs play a crucial role for community DRR, but need to be further strengthened to ensure their sustainability. A special focus on fundraising and income generation activities is needed for the LDMCs as well as for the district and provincial branches of the National Societies.

The project is fully coherent with the RCRC principles, with governmental DM plans and strategies and also with the new Sendai Framework for DRR. The project empowers the

National Societies and the governmental DM authorities to implement the relevant DM and DRR practices as well as regional cross-border contingency plans.

Lessons learned

Besides the risk of natural disasters the target communities also face a massive lack of access to safe drinking water and for irrigation and a lack of income generation activities. The overall economic situation in the target districts is very weak and on the decline.

The most important soft components of the project have been the First Aid and Search & Rescue trainings but all interview partners agreed that there should have been more refreshment trainings, including special trainings on earthquake resistant construction techniques.

The establishment of LDMCs in general could have a long-lasting positive impact for improved DRR on community level, if they transform into so called Primary Organizations (POs). The POs represent the National Red Crescent Societies on community level and they are having a special mandate for fundraising activities, they can lobby for Red Crescent memberships and are able to fulfil special social welfare activities on behalf of the Red Crescent. 15 out of 19 LDMCs already transformed into a PO and it became obvious that this registration of a LDMC as PO is the main pre-condition for the sustainability for the community based DRR component. At the same time it became obvious that there is still the need to develop a clear strategy within the National Societies on how to support and maintain their POs in the long run.

The sustainability of the cross-border coordination could not been fully assessed as a large number of relevant activities will still be implemented, but it became obvious that this cross-border coordination in the remaining project phase, needs intensive planning.

Major recommendations

To be able to sustain the capacities and services of the LDMCs/ POs on community level a second phase of the project will be needed. In such a second phase income generation strategies for the POs need to be developed.

Until the end of the project, it should be assessed how additional First Aid refresher trainings could still be implemented into the action plan and in a second phase this kind of capacity building activities need to be strengthened, including earthquake resistant construction trainings.

Taking into account the importance of access to drinking water, WASH activities need to be integrated on a large scale in a second project phase. To tackle the overall weak economic situation, it should also be explored in coordination with other stakeholders if community based income generation activities could be integrated into a second project phase.

The current strong focus on capacity building for the National Societies should remain and could even be intensified, including a stronger focus on the support of the Regional Disaster Response Teams and income generation activities for the Red Crescent branches.

The upcoming regional cross-border simulation exercise in 2016 needs detailed planning in close cooperation with the DM authorities on various level, including the national level that has to approve the cross-border actions.