



## Disaster Risk Management

emergency responses  
to vulnerable groups

### WHAT IS INCLUSIVE DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT?

Local governments are at the forefront of dealing with disasters such as floods, fires, earthquakes, droughts. It is common knowledge that such events can destroy and slow down years of development planning and implementation. The massive economic damage and impact of disasters on human lives result primarily from the increasing vulnerability of people. However, not all sections of the population are equally at risks from the consequences of disasters. Extreme events threaten mostly those sections of the population who are marginalized. These are poor families and ones at social risk (single-parent), families from rural areas, internally displaced persons, returnees, women and girls as well as children, the elderly and persons with disabilities. The exclusion suffered by these groups and their low level of participation in society can result in their needs being overlooked in disaster risk management measures.

For municipalities to respond to disasters in a timely fashion and to protect vulnerable groups of citizens, they need to develop procedures and mechanisms for obtaining, analysing and responding to early warning information related to hazard detection, forecasting and alerts.

Disaster Risk Management is a systematic and conceptual framework of measures that are closely linked to each other and that are undertaken before a natural hazard occurs with the aim of limiting or avoiding the adverse impact of natural event on society. It involves measures taken to prepare for and reduce the effects of disasters, that is, to predict and—where possible—prevent them, mitigate their impact on vulnerable populations, and respond to and effectively cope with their consequences. Municipal officials are usually the first actors who have to deal with a disaster, and if the disaster is not too large, the municipality is often the only government body involved. This is why municipalities need to be prepared to manage a disaster. The Disaster Risk Management approach which includes emergency responses to vulnerable groups is based on the human rights-based approach and the “Leave No One Behind” principle. It seeks equal opportunities for all, involving respective sections of the population in realizing their rights and equal access to public services in an emergency situation.

Effective Disaster Risk Management requires mutual trust and coordination of efforts and resources among the many agencies and people involved in emergency response—including the affected local population. Disaster preparedness and response are not solely the work of experts and emergency responders from municipal/local and government disaster organisations. Local volunteers, citizens, organisations and businesses have an active and important role to play before, during and after major emergencies and disasters. Therefore, Community-based disaster preparedness (CBDP) is a process that seeks to develop and implement a locally appropriate and locally “owned” strategy for disaster preparedness and risk reduction.

### HOW WILL THIS ONLINE COURSE HELP YOU?

This course will provide sufficient knowledge to its participants from municipal administration to assist municipal officials in determining how disaster risk reduction fits into the work of the municipality, identification and assessments of different types of natural and human-made hazards, taking preventive and preparedness measures, respond and recover, while addressing how vulnerable groups can be integrated and considered in disaster risk management. It consists of several steps municipalities need to undertake to develop a Disaster Risk Management Plan that incorporates the needs of vulnerable groups.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Understand the concept of Inclusive Disaster Risk Management and its link to Agenda 2030 and SDGs,
- Identify main aspects of needs assessment of disaster risk management, its types of assessment as a vital element for planning with a focus on fast needs assessment and vulnerability capacity assessment,
- Recognise the key steps for the development of Inclusive Disaster Risk Management Plans including communication and coordination with relevant stakeholders.

### TARGET AUDIENCES

The course is designed for professionals working in the units of local self-government and Local Government Associations who are responsible for social protection and disaster risk management who have certain initial knowledge on the topic.

## COURSE STRUCTURE

This course is divided in four modules:

- Module 1 - Definitions of disaster risk management and importance of the topic and links to SDGs;
- Module 2 - Needs assessment aspect of disaster risk management (types of assessment as a vital element for planning with a focus on fast needs assessment and vulnerability capacity assessment);
- Module 3 - Process of development and content of a Disaster Risk Management Plan, including Preparation of plan of action for Covid response;
- Module 4 – Communication and coordination in crisis (focusing on models for exchange of information between key actors before, during and following a crisis).

Each module will be delivered in one week, therefore, the entire period for the course delivery and completion is one month.

## LEARNING METHODS

This course is facilitator-guided and offers online learning methodology and tools including readings, case studies, videos, guided discussions, assignments and quizzes. These interactive tools will enable you to share your views, discuss with others and receive feedback. Vivid forum and online discussions and exchange of ideas and thoughts will encourage you to establish a permanent network of practitioners who work in local governments on social protection.

## HOURS OF STUDY

For successful completion of the entire course, you will need to devote 12 hours in total, or 3 hours of learning per module, per week.

## EVALUATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND CERTIFICATE FOR COURSE COMPLETION

In order to get certificate for course completion, you should complete all the readings, actively contribute to the discussion forums, responding to the specific assignments, and complete the quizzes. Each of these tasks is scored with maximum of 100 points, while the threshold for successful completion of the course is 70 points.

## LANGUAGE

This course is available in English language.

## COURSE DELIVERY

The first delivery of the course will happen from 06 September 2021 until 03 October 2021 in collaboration with NALAS member Local Government Associations. To express interest for the course, please contact the Local Government Association in your economy or NALAS at [info@nalas.eu](mailto:info@nalas.eu)

## THIS COURSE IS PART OF NALAS e-ACADEMY

NALAS e-Academy is an online platform which enables dissemination of relevant regional knowledge to each municipal employee in SEE, in the same time offering opportunity for an interesting, creative, step by step learning. NALAS e-Academy provides a superb knowledge on topic relevant for local government professionals in the areas relevant to their work. Taking advantage of new technologies, the learning experience provided by the NALAS e-academy is affordable, innovative and practitioner focused.

## COURSE FACILITATOR

Mr. Vasko Popovski



Mr. Popovski has more than 15 years of experience in the field of DRM, crisis management, climate change adaptation alongside innovation for resilience. His professional expertise includes aspects of the resilience of children and children rights in emergencies, DRM, DRR, Disaster Risk Governance, Urban Resilience, Emergency Preparedness as well as Response and resilient recovery. He is a PhD candidate in Crisis Management obtained from the Faculty of Philosophy, St Cyril and Methodius University – Skopje. Mr. Popovski has been a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the Disaster Research Center (USA) and a lecturer on the innovation for disaster resilience topics at the joint Summer School of UNDP and the Central European University in Budapest. Also, he developed an online crisis management module for the municipalities in North Macedonia. He has experience in the target countries of the Western Balkan region with professional experiences from the Europe and Central Asia and South-east Asia regions.