

Copy-editing & Proofreading Sample

Project proposal for strengthening disaster risk management capacities in Turkmenistan

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Proofreading

US English

This task required the final proofreading of a 37-page disaster risk management project proposal to be done and delivered the same day. My focus was therefore on essential corrections and improvements so that the client could submit the proposal on time.

Country Context Overview

Turkmenistan is a landlocked country with a growing population of over 5 million people and three climatic zones: semi-desert zone, desert zone, and mountain and piedmont areas. Turkmenistan is largely a desert country; it covers over 80% of the territory. The two largest crops are cotton, most of which is produced for export, and wheat, predominantly for domestic consumption. Nearly half of the country's workforce is employed in the agriculture sector, yet it accounts for only 8% of GDP.

Turkmenistan possesses sizeable gas and oil resources that today constitute the country's main sources of revenue. The industry ensures a crude oil production rate of 222,200 bbl/day (2011 est.) and natural gas production of 59.5 billion cu m (2011 est.). With the complex infrastructure such production requires, its protection and well-functioning are inevitably important challenges for the country.

A large number of hydro-meteorological impacts are regularly witnessed in the country. Turkmenistan is particularly prone to natural hazards, especially drought, floods and mudslides, the risks of which become even more heightened in light of the changing climate. For instance, the drought of 2000-2002 reduced the flow of the Kara Kum canal by 22-44%. As a result, the crop yields for wheat and cotton declined by as much as 50% in many areas while pasture productivity fell by 50-70%. In 2005 and 2007, rapid snowmelt from the Amu Darya hit the cities of Atamurat and Turkmenabat. The floods created an overflow of up to 7000 m³/s, flooding plains, crops, rice and cotton fields, and destroying river banks and breaking dams. The number and severity of witnessed events is increasing, all resulting in growing socio-economic and environmental impacts. The data on financial damage caused by such natural hazards are not available.

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however, the scope of the impact suggests that losses are significant for the economy as well as individuals.

Turkmenistan is one of the most earthquake prone countries not only in the region but also the world. Research recognizes that the Kopet Dag's mountain area has high seismic potential for generating M≥6.5 earthquakes. The most devastating earthquake of 1948 in Ashgabat led to the deaths of an estimated 176,000 people, or around 88% of the local population. Large construction projects on-going in the capital of Turkmenistan, which itself is located in a seismic zone, require extra attention to seismic engineering and increasing population awareness on safety behavior. Risks of natural hazards have a potentially huge adverse impact on development gains already achieved and can set the country back for years if not addressed properly.

Strategy

Focus

The project will develop capacities of the key national stakeholders to manage disaster risk, focusing on the following priority areas:

- strengthening inter-agency coordination mechanisms for timely and effective emergency response;
- strengthening the knowledge base for information management and sharing, education and training, public awareness and DRM-related research;
- strengthening capacities to assess disaster, specifically seismic risk, prioritize actions to be included in DRM-related strategies and to inform contingency planning;
- strengthening linkages in early warning, development of scenarios for contingency planning and strengthening of preparedness and response;
- strengthening the material-technical base of the key stakeholders.

The strategy adopted within the project implies broadening the access of all relevant stakeholders to the state-of-art developments at the international level, so they can be critically reviewed, adjusted, and when feasible, applied to the context of the Turkmen reality.

Output 2: Disaster risk management strategy for Turkmenistan is developed.

Activity Result 2.1: Undertake country situation analysis and national-level risk identification. As a prerequisite for a national risk management strategy, the project will conduct an assessment of potential risks, thereby creating a National Atlas on Disaster Risks and a National Disaster Observatory. The risk assessment will provide first-hand information to decision-makers on priority areas for disaster prevention activities as well as update the national DRM strategy. This activity will be finalized within the first year of the project.

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