



ADAPTATION FUND

Adaptation Story

GEORGIA



The residents of the Rioni Basin have been challenged by severe floods and landslides for decades. Climate change over the past 20 years has caused more frequent and severe hazards. Adding to the stress, inappropriate land use, Soviet-era agricultural practices, illegal deforestation and poorly maintained infrastructure like dams and flood defenses have exacerbated the situation.

To improve climate adaptation measures in this part of western Georgia, the Adaptation Fund and the Government of Georgia are implementing activities that



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cover 13,000km² of the Rioni basin. These activities address hazards like landslides, flash floods, mudflow in the steep and mountainous upstream areas, as well as flooding, and erosion of river beds in the floodplain downstream areas.

These adaptation activities will introduce a floodplain development policy that includes producing maps of hazardous areas, reviewing and changing land use regulations, including climate change risks in floodplain management, and reviewing and streamlining building codes to include flood-proof building. Through the development of a fully integrated flood forecasting and early warning system, communities will also be trained to read gauges, issue warnings and respond to emergencies.

PRIMARY goals

- Introduce floodplain development policy for resilience
- Develop & implement climate resilient practices of flood management to reduce vulnerability of highly exposed communities
- Install early warning system to improve preparedness & resilience
- Strengthen institutional capacity to reduce risks associated with climate-induced socioeconomic & environmental losses
- Increase adaptive capacity within relevant development and natural resource sectors
- Diversify & strengthen sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas
- Improve policies and regulations that promote and enforce resilience measures





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BY THE NUMBERS

\$5,316,500

AMOUNT OF FINANCING REQUESTED

2-6

TIMES GREATER ADAPTATION BENEFITS

6

TARGET MUNICIPALITIES

15

SCHEMES IMPLEMENTED IN 6 MUNICIPALITIES

203,000

DIRECT BENEFICIARIES OF ADAPTATION MEASURES

5:7

BENEFIT TO COST RATIO

8,400km²

IMPROVED FLOOD MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

“ In addition to all of the much-needed work the project has achieved so far, upgrading of Hydro-met stations and posts, as well as all the assessments in the river basin and modelling is really crucial for the country. During the recent stormy weathers, we were able to issue timely weather forecasts to responsible state agencies who mobilized to respond, especially at the Black Sea coastal line. ”

—Vladimir Lazariashvili,

Director of National Environment Agency of Georgia.

PROJECT activities

- New building codes reviewed and streamlined for housing rehabilitation schemes
- Community-based flood insurance scheme designed and implemented
- Direct interventions for long term flood prevention and risk mitigation
- Review and change land use regulations for adaptation
- Systems established at the national and subnational level led by the NEA for long- and short-term flood forecasting
- Targeted training of national and local authorities



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