



LOCAL PREPAREDNESS AND EMERGENCY GUIDE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

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KOLONJA MUNICIPALITY
URBAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE



STATEMENT OF THE MAYOR



In recent years, the Municipality of Kolonja has undergone changes in numerous infrastructural developments and not only, which have affected the improvement of life in this city and its units.

Emergency preparedness is a shared responsibility. All people are encouraged to be prepared to cope in at least the first 72 hours of an emergency, while civil emergency workers or volunteer groups are focus on those in urgent need.

This guide provides information for the preparation of the emergency plan and especially for people with disabilities, those with special needs and their caregivers.

While natural disasters and emergencies affect everyone, the impact on people with disabilities / special needs is often made up of factors such as reliance on electricity, elevators, accessible transportation and easily accessible communication - all of which can compromised in emergency situations.

By taking a few simple steps today, we can better prepare for a range of emergencies.

ERION ISAI

MAYOR OF KOLONJA MUNICIPLAITY

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This document summarizes the work progress and the local context and challenges for the preparation of the Local Preparedness Emergency Guide in the Municipality of Kolonja.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AU	Administrative Unit
CECIS	Common Emergency Communication and Information System
CEMPMK	Civil Emergency Management Plan in the Municipality of Kolonjë
CoM	Council of Ministers
CP	Civil Protection
DCM	Decision of Council of Ministers
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
GLP	General Local Plan
NCPA	National Civil Protection Annual
NSDI	National Strategy for Development and Integration
PWD	People with Disability
STESTA	Secure Trans-European Services for Telematics between Administrations
UCPM	Union Civil Protection Mechanism
UNCRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

METHODOLOGY

This guide is provided within the “IPA II Greece - Albania 2014-2020 Cross-Border Program” under 4PLUS project and aims to help citizens identify potential information on disaster risks, integrate individual and community mitigation plans and make efforts on how to improve the process of recovery after natural disasters.

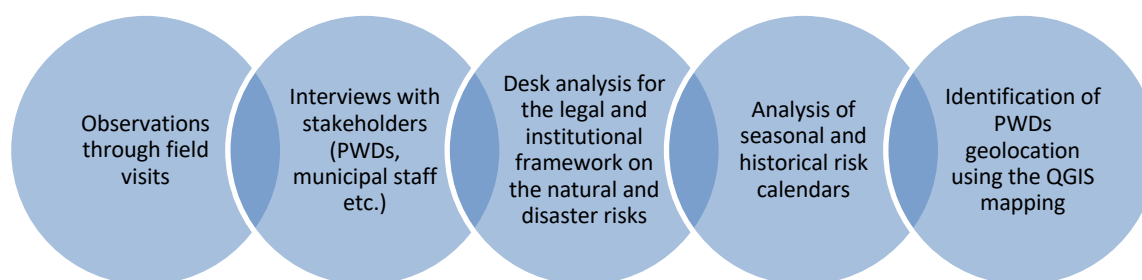
In addition, this guide may be useful for law enforcement agencies in responding to a natural disaster, those at the local level responsible for creating and / or updating risk mitigation plans and implementing risk mitigation activities, or city dwellers and business owners looking to better understand where to find information that can help them build or set up their businesses in secure locations.

The National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI) 2015-2020 of the Government of Albania is expected to directly contribute to the strengthening of institutional mechanisms, capacities and procedures for strategic planning and integrated at the central and sectoral level, to further strengthen the capacities for appropriate implementation of IPA II actions, as well as implementation of the "Interreg IPA II Cross-border Greece-Albania 2014-2020 Cross-Border Cooperation Program".

Nowadays, as it extends to the "IPA II Cross-Border Program Greece - Albania 2014-2020", natural and man-made disasters present significant challenges for sustainable development in this particular cross-border area. In particular fires and floods are increasing having cross-border impacts which make a common approach essential. Although prevention is gaining increasing importance in both countries, strategic guidance on how to support people with disabilities / older people is lacking leaving them fully exposed to the many risks.

From a methodological point of view, the project applies a comprehensive approach. The approach focused on institutional cooperation and the participation of various community groups in order to institutionalize the culture of disaster risk reduction for Kolonja. For this, the following instruments are used:

Figure 2: Methodological approach applied for this guide



LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

One of the basic principles of law 139/2015 “On local self-governance” is subsidiarity, which is ‘the principle of performing functions and exercising competencies at a government level as close as possible to the community, given the importance and nature of the task, as well as economic efficiency requirements.

In this context, based on article 29, the municipality, as a local authority, has direct competencies in the field of civil protection, which are subsequently granted by the sectoral legislation. Civil protection at local level consists of the following main components: prevention, flood prevention regulated by specific legislation, civil emergency announcement, preparedness, damage assessment and reconstruction; more specifically, municipalities are responsible for guaranteeing these functions in the field of public safety:

- Civil protection, at local level, and administration of relevant structures, in the manner prescribed by law.
- Guaranteeing the fire service, at local level, and administering the relevant structures, in the manner prescribed by law.
- Ensuring the well-being of community relations, prevention and mediation for the resolution of conflicts in the community.
- Prevention of administrative contraventions, strengthening, inspection and monitoring of the implementation of regulations and acts of local self-government units within their local jurisdiction and in accordance with legal provisions.

In the recent years Albania has made progress on disaster risk reduction issues and civil protection, by adopting the *Law 45/2019 “On civil protection”*, which is approximated with several directives and decisions of the European Union.

Law No 45/2019 “On civil protection”, foresees that Albania will adopt the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and local strategies for Disaster Risk Reduction. Additionally, risk assessment shall be carried out at the central, regional and local level, and civil emergency plans shall be developed at the central, regional and local level. According to the law 45/2019, the General Directorate of Civil Emergencies has been transformed into the National Civil Protection Agency.

There is a principle of hierarchy and harmonisation among the institutions and planning instruments. Hence, the ministry responsible for civil protection (through the relevant agency), the Prefectures and Municipalities should all undertake risk assessments and prepare risk reduction strategies and plans for civil emergencies for their respective territories.

Figure 3: Institutional framework chart. Source: Association of Albanian Municipalities (AAM)

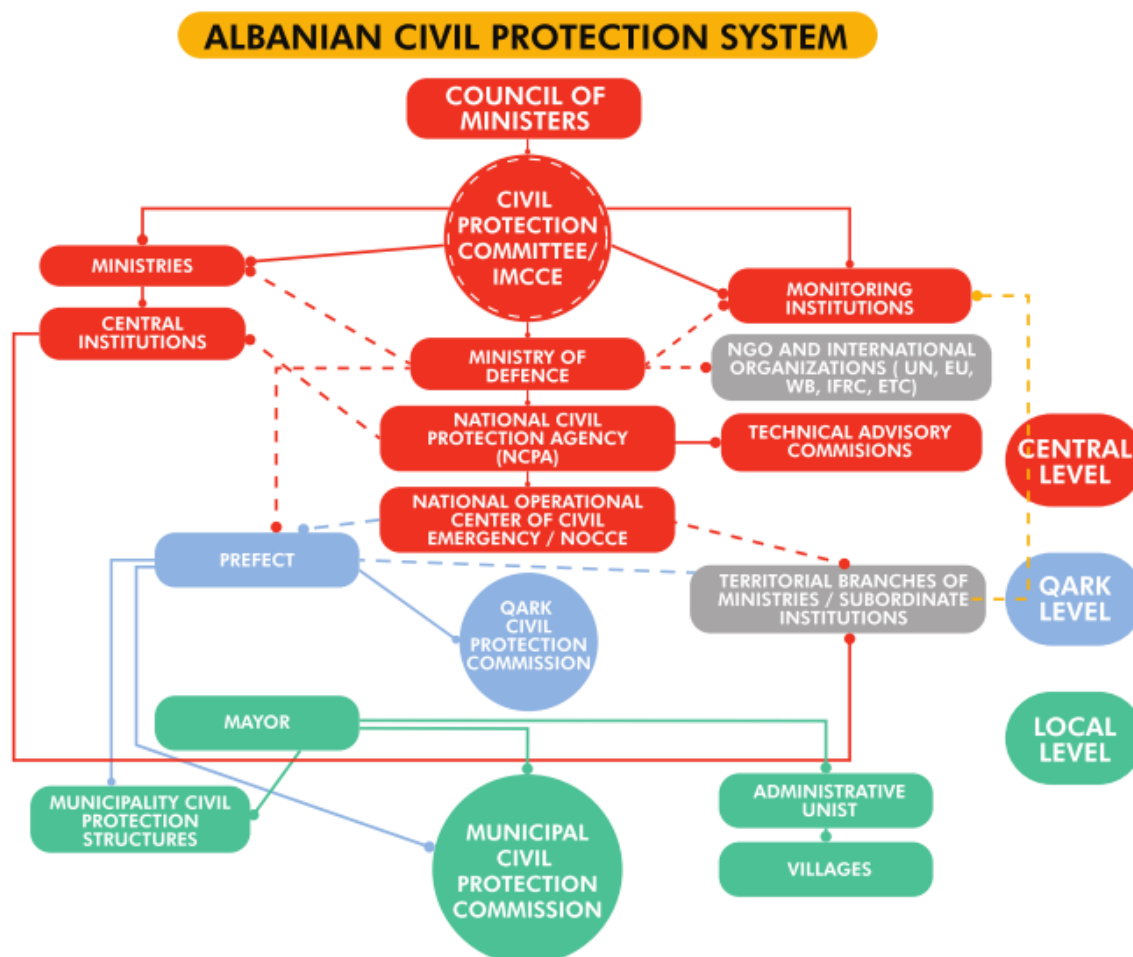


Table 1: Institutions involved in the civil protection and emergency response

Name of the institution	Description of role
Central civil protection institutions and structures	
The Assemble	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adopts the National Civil Protection Annual (NCPA) budget as part of the budget of the ministry responsible for civil protection; Exercises parliamentary controls on issues related to civil protection; Ratifies international agreements on civil protection.
The Council of Ministers (CoMs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approves and ensures the implementation of policies for disaster risk reduction and civil protection in the Albania. Adopts the National Strategy on Disaster Risk Reduction, National Civil Emergency Plan and central Level risk assessment document. Informs the Assembly of the Republic of Albania on the situation at hand, the present risks and the measures taken to manage the situation.
The Minister responsible for the civil protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defines the strategic directions and objectives of the National Civil Protection Agency; Develops and oversees the implementation of disaster risk reduction and civil protection policies;

(Ministry of Defence)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Informs the CoMs on disaster risk reduction and civil protection; ▪ Oversees the National Civil Protection Agency budget management.
The National Civil Protection Agency - NCPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implements the CoMs policy in the field of disaster risk reduction and civil protection; ▪ Implements the strategic directions and objectives set by the ministry responsible for civil protection, ▪ Coordinates efforts for the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, the National Civil Emergency Plan, and Disaster Risk Assessment development at the central level; ▪ Cooperates with international bodies and counterpart international organizations in the framework of civil protection and disaster risk reduction; ▪ Plans funds for disaster prevention and rehabilitation measures in damaged infrastructure, as well as other activities in the field of civil protection, ▪ Promotes forms, methodologies, rational means for collecting, recording, processing and disseminating disaster information; ▪ Develops the training program for central and local civil protection structures; ▪ Conducts inspections on the implementation of the provisions of the law on civil protection (45/2019) by state institutions and structures, local government and private entities.
Local civil protection institutions and structures	
The Prefect of the Qark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Prefect of Qark has a primary role in disaster risk reduction and civil protection at the qark level, based on Decision of Council of Ministers (DCM) No. 965, dated 2.12.2015 "On the inter-institutional cooperation of the management structures in cases of civil emergencies and crises".
Municipalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Within 2 years from the entry into force of this law, carry out risk assessment in their territory, drafting and approving the disaster risk assessment document, which is sent to the district prefect and the National Civil Protection Agency, for analysis and planning; ▪ Inform the public and the community at risk, based on the disaster risk assessment document; ▪ Draft and review disaster risk reduction strategy; ▪ Draft, approve and update the local civil emergency plan and send it to the National Civil Protection Agency and the county prefect for analysis and planning purposes; ▪ Organise training activities in civil protection field for employees and residents in their territory; ▪ Ensure the functioning of the monitoring, early warning, notification and alarm system in their territory and inform in time the endangered community, the National Civil Protection Agency and the prefect of the region for disasters in the territory of the region; ▪ Provide, administer and update the necessary data for citizens and private entities, possible to plan and engage in disaster prevention and response; ▪ Within 2 years from the entry into force of this law, create the database of losses from disasters for the territory of the municipality, which they maintain and update, as well as exchange information with the prefect of the region and the National Agency of Civil Protection; ▪ Carry out disaster prevention, protection and rehabilitation investments and continuously inform about these investments to the prefect of the county, as well as to the National Civil Protection Agency; ▪ Appoint the head of operation at the municipal level to deal with the disaster in its territory;

- Carry out the assessment of the damages caused by the disasters in their territory, the assessment of the needs for their coping, as well as the compensation of the citizens for the disasters that occurred in their territory;
- Cooperate with neighboring municipalities in the implementation of tasks related to disaster risk reduction and civil protection, in order to unite their capacities to address common issues in this area;
- Maintain fire protection systems, uninterrupted passage of rural roads, shelters, as well as collect and administer food reserves for humans and living things;
- Activate the capacities of public and private entities within their administrative territory, cooperate and assist neighboring municipalities and take any other necessary measures to cope with and alleviate disasters;
- Maintain irrigation, drainage, flood protection infrastructure and reservoir dams under their administration.

Cross-cutting Strategy for Decentralization and Local Government, adopted on July 29, 2015 mentions in fact the need for intervention and updating of relevant legislation in the field of local government to adapt to new circumstances and conditions in local government.

The strategy envisages three main areas:



FIRE PROTECTION:
Municipalities have been transferred the function of fire protection service at the local level.



CIVIL PROTECTION: The new strategy and law on civil protection will review and improve the competencies and role of local authorities in the field of civil protection in order to increase the efficiency of structures in the protection of life and property of citizens. **The new law on civil emergencies has been adopted on July 2019.**



MUNICIPAL POLICE:
Municipal police is abolished as a local government structure. The law enforcement functions of the municipal police will be transferred to the State Police, which will be responsible for enforcing the administrative orders of the mayors.

According to the EU Progress Report 2020, Albania shows some level of preparation in the civil protection area. The new Civil Protection Law approved in July 2019 provides for the General Directorate of Civil Emergencies to become the National Agency for Civil Protection (NACP).

The strategy and national plan are outdated and do not take account of recent institutional and organisational changes. The administrative capacity, infrastructure and systems for early warning, prevention, preparedness and response are inadequate. The 2019 earthquakes highlighted the urgency

of building efficient civil protection and disaster risk reduction (DRR) systems, and mainstreaming DRR in key sectors. The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the need to strengthen the legal framework and institutional capacities as well as human and financial resources of civil protection authorities also with regard to health emergencies.

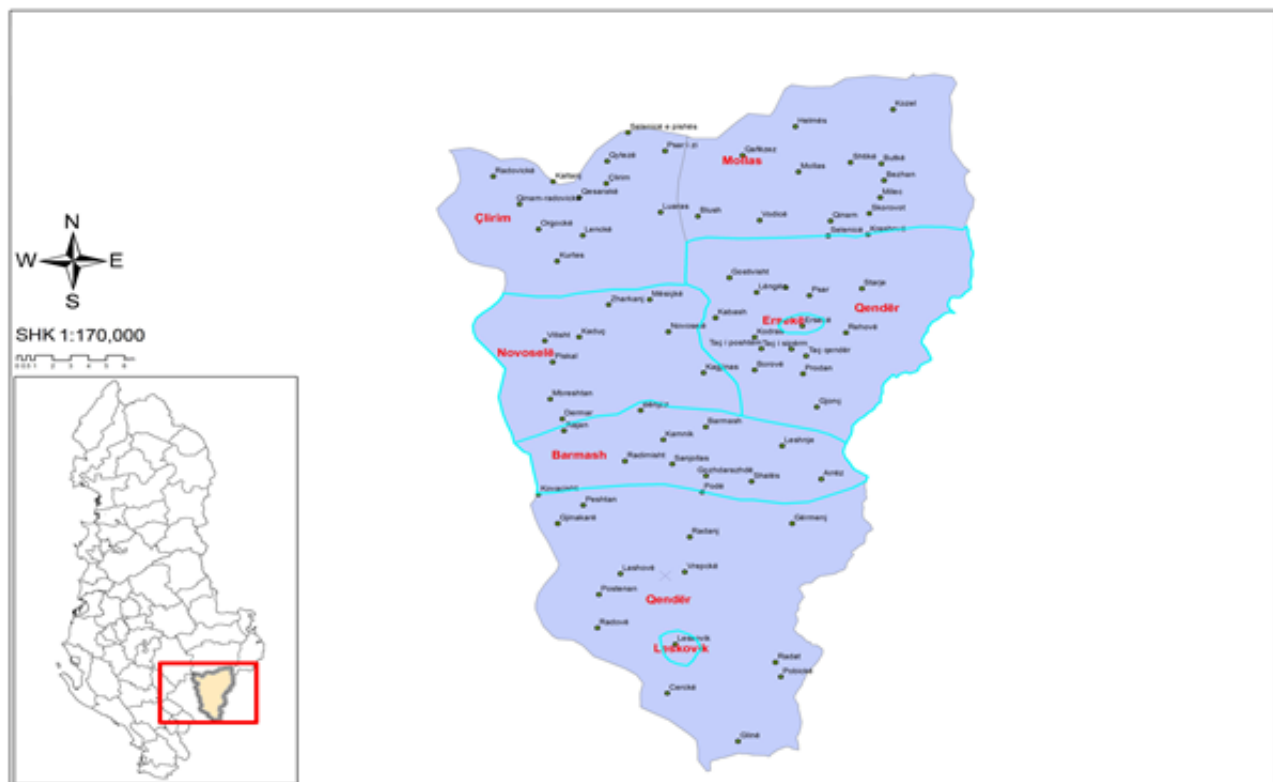
Albania is encouraged to accelerate preparations for joining the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM). It should build institutional capacity and seek to establish secure trans-European services for telematics between administrations (STESTA), which is a pre-condition for connecting to the Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS). Albania should also urgently put a financing and action plan in place for implementing the Civil Protection and DRR measures of the post-earthquake recovery strategy, which include key national structuring action as well. In addition to earthquakes, floods are a major hazard, but Albania has made only little progress in aligning with the Floods Directive, and still needs to regulate its early warning and hydrometric-meteorological services.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE URBAN AND INFRASTRUCTURAL SYSTEM

Geographical position and general characteristics

Kolonja Municipality is bordered in the north by the Municipalities of Devoll and Korça, on the west and south by the Municipality of Përmet, while on the east by Greece. The capital of the Municipality is the city of Erseka. The Municipality of Kolonjë is a new local government unit created with the new Administrative-Territorial division according to law no. 115/2014 “On the Administrative-Territorial Division of Local Government Units in the Republic of Albania”.

Figure 4: Map of Kolonja Municipality



Demography

The municipality counts a population of 19,919 according to Civil Registry data and a population of 11,070 according to INSTAT, with an area of 864.06 km². The municipality consists of 8 Administrative Units (AUs), which are Ersekë, Leskovik, Qender Leskovik, Novoselë, Barmash, Mollas, Clirim, and has under its administration two cities Ersekë and Leskovik and 76 villages, which are included in the following administrative units:

Table 2: Demographic data on Kolonja population

AUs	Number OF villages	Number of Households	Population according to Civil Registry 2016	Population according to Census 2011
Ersekë Qendër	16	1,252	5,699	2,673
Ersekë	-	-	3,532	3,746
Leskovik	-	1,175	3,274	1,525
Leskovik Qendër	14	246	715	416
Barmash	9	224	824	480
Novoselë	10	220	834	355
Mollas	14	1,250	4,074	1,520
Çlirim	12	197	967	355
Totali	75	4,564	19,919	11,070

Education

Currently, in the Municipality of Kolonja there are 16 kindergartens, 14 elementary schools and 3 high-schools, distributed as in the following table¹.

Table 3: Education institutions in Kolonja and their capacities

AUs	Kindergartens			Secondary schools			High schools		
	No. of Kindergartens	No. of children	No. of nursery governess	No. of secondary schools	No. of students	No. of teachers	No. of high-schools	No. of students	No. of teachers
Erseke	2	148	12	1	449	31	1	268	23
Qendër Erseke	6	36	6	4	102	27	0	0	0
Leskovik	1	27	3	1	114	13	1	55	6
Qendër Leskovik	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barmash	1	5	1	1	11	5	-	-	-
Novosele	2	11	2	1	19	7	-	-	-
Mollas	4	33	4	4	102	21	1	20	7
Clirim	-	-	-	2	2	1	-	-	-
Totali	16	260	28	14	799	105	3	343	36

The fund for the maintenance and administration of rural schools is in many cases inefficient due to the small number of students. The phenomenon of collective classes is a serious consequence of the migration of the rural population and the isolation of villages.

¹ STAR 2 "Mapping of local self-governance", 2016.

Healthcare

In the Municipality of Kolonja there are 2 hospitals (Ersekë and Leskovik), 6 health centers, 1 polyclinic and 22 ambulances².

Table 4: Number of health facilities, data from Kolonja Municipality

AUs	No. of health centres and hospitals	No. of polyclinics and ambulances	No. of doctors, nurses, etc.
Ersekë	2	1	17
Qendër Ersekë	1	11	24
Leskovik	2	-	6
Qendër Leskovik	-	-	-
Barmash	1	3	9
Novosele	1	3	7
Mollas	1	5	18
Clirim	-	-	-
Totali	8	23	81

The social service of the municipality is extremely limited. Human capacity development is a necessary starting point, together with the establishment of a database and social and gender indicators which are regularly updated and evaluated in the coming years, in order to better address the problems of groups in need, access which is currently lacking. In this regard, cooperation with non-profit or civil society organizations is key.

Not every village has an ambulance and often they are not connected by paved roads to the nearest village that has an ambulance.

Economic Development

In the city of Erseka, business development is mainly oriented towards small business. About 350 private entities operate in this territory, of which only 15 entities have the status of a legal entity. Entities with the status of legal entity consist of 6 construction companies, while others work mainly in the field of forest use and processing for the sale of timber.

The rest of the economic activity consists of small business, mainly in the field of services and trade and a relatively small number consists of small production and processing entities. Also, there are entities in the field of trade and services, mainly self-employed and only 30% of them have two insured employees, including the owner.

The area of agricultural land for the Municipality of Kolonjë is 6357 ha. The planted area is 4416 ha³, most of which is used for the cultivation of cereals and fodder. The number of farms in the Municipality of Kolonjë is 2,303; of these 1,420 farms have parcel sizes of 2 to 2.5 ha.

In recent years, the cultivation of medicinal plants has gained momentum, but also their collection on the Gramoz Mountain, orienting the inhabitants towards finding a solution for securing income. In the area of Leskovik the tourist potentials are numerous. The inhabitants still preserve the tradition of viticulture and wine production in handicrafts. Cultural and folklore traditions are quite well preserved.

² STAR 2 "Mapping of local self-governance", 2016.

³ Reference, 2015.

The greatest opportunities for employment of women and people with disabilities are estimated in the field of collection and processing of medicinal plants, promotion of culinary and cultural traditions of the area, etc.

Risk of Natural Disasters

Kolonja is an area rich in forest resources, water (especially thermal water), but their use for development and economic well-being is today at low levels and still far from a sustainable use.

Towards the inhabited areas of the Municipality of Kolonja, a large number of mountain streams flow, which during the rains create considerable inflows, which pass near the inhabited areas. This positioning also increases the risk of damage that may result from floods of water and soil transported in cases of large inflows. The positioning in the upper part of the rivers Osum and Vjosa, exposes this area more against the "Flash floods", starting from the fast time that the rains flood, makes them even more dangerous.

Public service infrastructure in rural areas as a whole is in dire need of upgrading and renewal. Lack of regular maintenance aggravates the situation, and often the number of residents left in remote villages hardly justifies investments of considerable size.

CIVIL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KOLONJE

Referring to the Law on Local Self-Government, Article 29 the Municipality is responsible for planning and managing emergency situations.

The municipality is obliged to take responsibility for civil emergencies at all times, to orient them towards the civic expectations to have a primary and decisive role in matters of civil emergencies, the establishment of sustainable structures, rescue and evacuation centers and the whole chain mechanism for an efficient system in cases of local civil emergencies.

Albania is a country which over the years has been affected and poses a risk of being affected by various natural disasters. Among the serious threats is the disaster that comes from severe earthquakes and floods on a large scale from rivers, landslides, the consequences of heavy snow, etc.

The vulnerability of the population to natural disasters is also conditioned by the aggravated economic situation, poor infrastructure, massive internal migration, and a number of other environmental factors.

In order to improve the ability to cope with the risks of various disasters in compliance with the legal obligations of the Municipality, it is necessary to prepare a detailed plan for dealing with emergencies in case of various disasters that may threaten the territory of the Municipality and a guide on the plan of civil protection of persons with disabilities in cases of natural disasters.

Referring to the history of disasters that occurred over the years in the territory of the Municipality of Kolonjë, this document will serve to draft a plan and possible scenarios of disasters that may affect the territory of the Municipality and its population in the coming years, as well as measures preparatory for coping with these situations for civil protection, property and other assets.

The Civil Emergency Management Plan in the Municipality of Kolonje (CEMPMK) targets:

- ✓ **Reduction of disaster risk and realization of civil protection** to guarantee the protection of the lives of people, persons with disabilities, living things, property, cultural heritage and the environment from Civil Emergencies and Crises, by strengthening the civil protection system.

- ✓ **To provide conditions for state, public and private institutions for economic activities** and for the population, for the transition from the normal state of life and work to an emergency situation, with the smallest possible losses for maintaining order, for the lives of people for the thing living, property, cultural heritage and the environment, to the effects of a Civil Emergency and Crisis.
- ✓ **To guarantee the use of all possible state resources** for the purpose of public security, continuous preservation of the national economy, localization of the emergency zone and mitigation of consequences.

Through this plan, the ways of communication and exchange of appropriate information are created, the strengthening of attention and through coordination the strengthening of the response capacities is achieved in all phases of the cycle of civil emergencies and crises.

CEMPMK is essentially a collaboration tool which if used correctly will:

- Save human life and wealth.
- Increase the impact of existing capacities.
- Provide tools for searching for additional resources and aids.

PREPARATION OF EMERGENCY GUIDE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Natural disasters are bound to happen, are growing in intensity and number, and hamper the development work and the development of strategic plans of Kolonja Municipality.

When we are hit by disasters, a special group of people face more of the danger that threatens them and they find it impossible to defend themselves against natural disasters without the presence of rescue teams or their caregivers.

The issue of disability has gained additional attention, especially since the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD) has been signed and ratified by many countries. Integration of disability into the work of humanitarian agencies and governments is, however, still in an early phase. The relevant Disaster Risk Management (DRM) frameworks and guidelines indicate that disability should be integrated into the work of the humanitarian agencies and organizations that are working closely with DRM.

In general we all need to take action and make an emergency guide. This guide must fulfil the tasks in both logistics and organization for taking measures and providing all emergency needs to cope with a situation for up to 72 hours. Furthermore, the training groups and their caregivers should take action and be trained on how to act in cases of natural disasters with people with disabilities.

The groups most affected by natural disasters are as follows:

- a) Children
- b) People with disabilities
- c) Persons who have lost their hearing
- d) Persons who have lost their sight
- e) Chronically ill persons
- f) Persons with invisible disabilities
- g) Pregnant women

h) The elderly with disabilities and special needs

The total number of People with Disability (PWD) in Kolonja Municipality is distributed as follows, with the highest number in the city of Ersekë.

Table 5: Number of PWD in Kolonja Municipality

No.	Municipality	Administrative Units	Persons with disabilities
1	Kolonja	Ersekë Center	65
2		Mollas	44
3		Çlirim	16
4		Barmash	19
5		Novosel	14
6		Leskovik Center	13
7		Leskovik	41
8		Ersekë	112
Total			324

While, the number of persons benefiting from the social protection program of social insurance (third age) in Kolonja Municipality, is reflected as following.

Table 6: Number of people benefiting from the social protection program, data form Kolonja Municipality

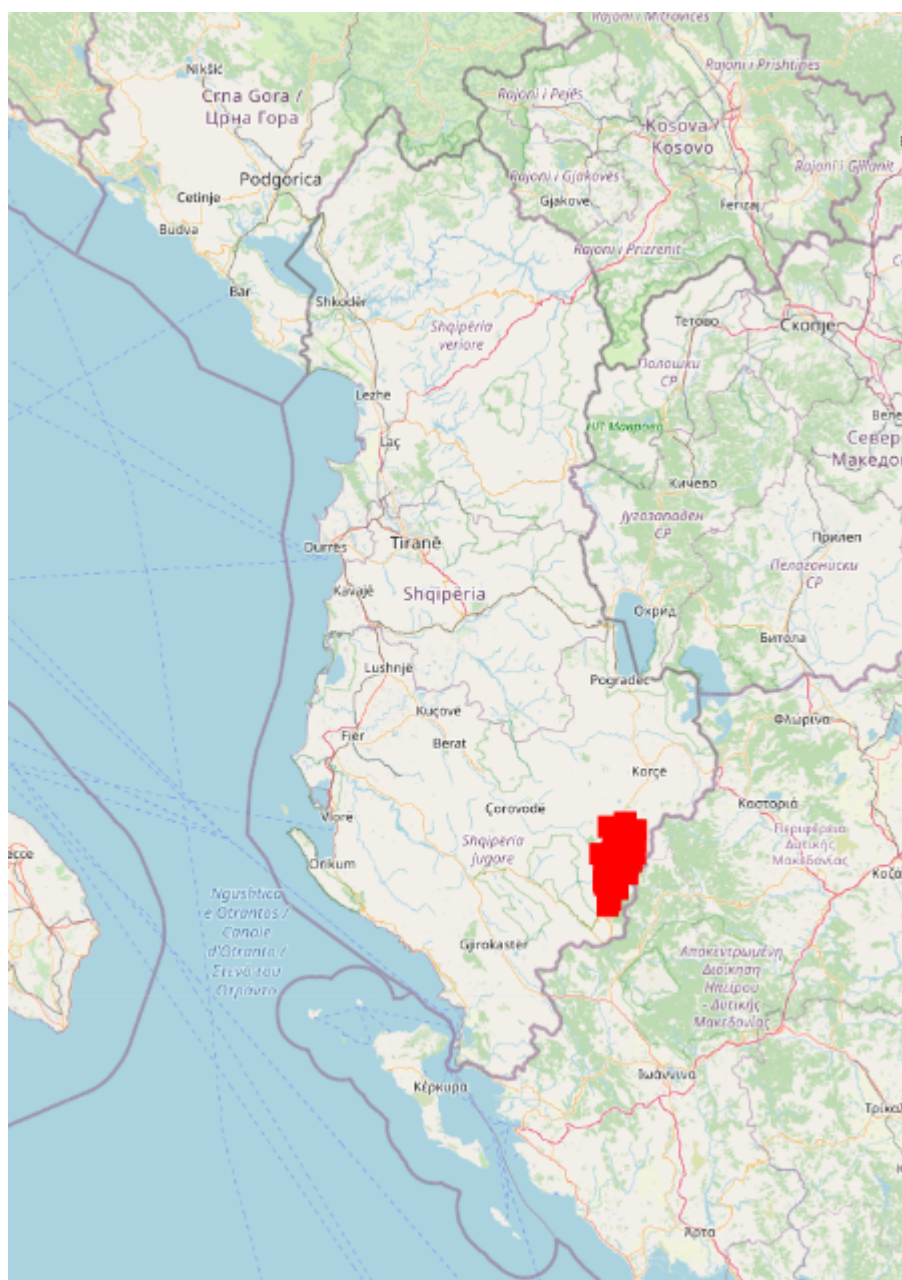
No.	Municipality	Administrative Units	Persons treated with a pension
1	Kolonja	Ersekë Center, Ersekë	1,864
2		Mollas	400
3		Çlirim	
4		Barmash	
5		Novosel	58
6		Leskovik Center	550
7		Leskovik	
Total			2,978

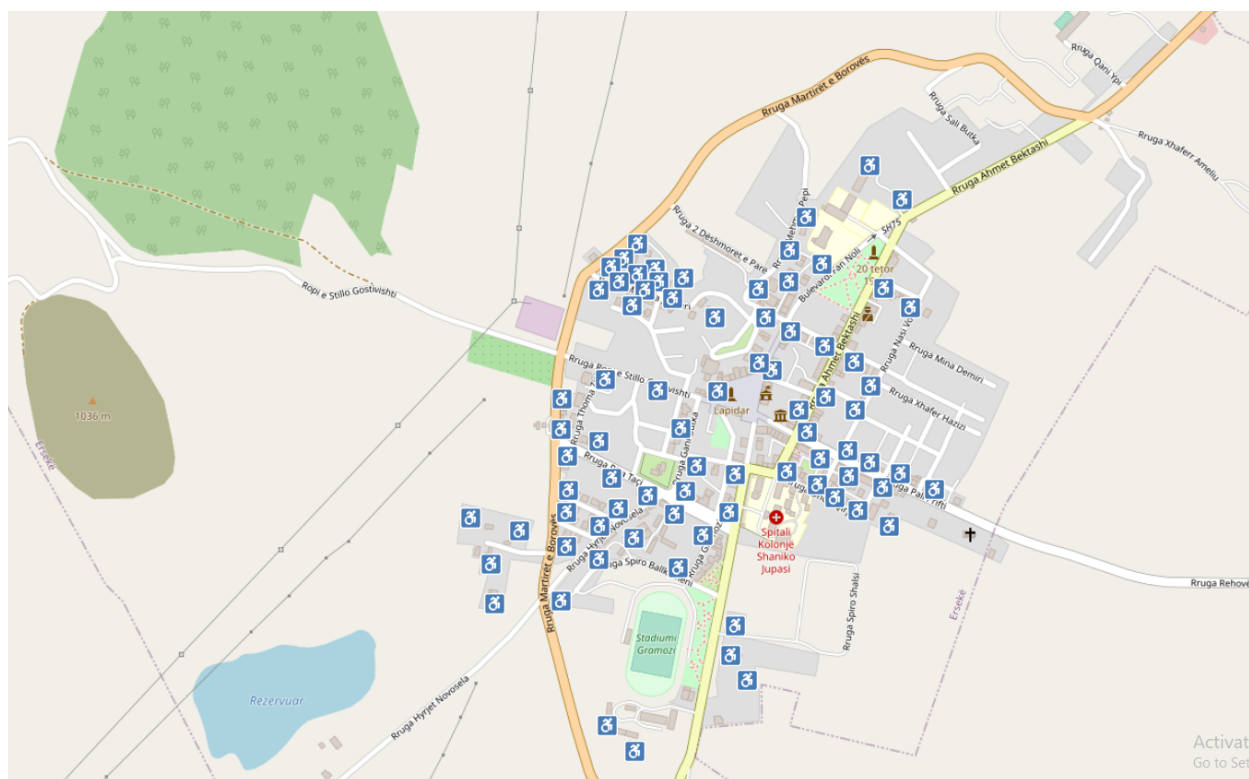
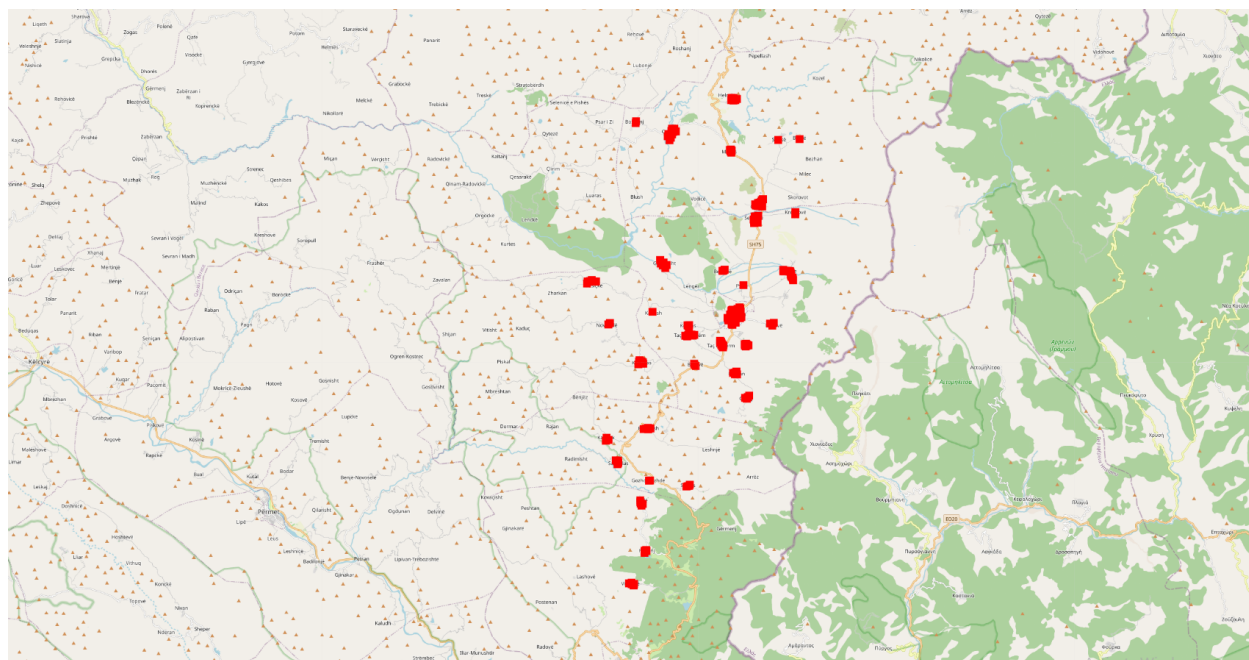
Following a “Door to Door Identification of PWD in Kolonja Municipality” conducted in the frame of this project, a GIS platform⁴ has been created, being populated with PWD data and their geographic distribution in Kolonja Municipality, as reflected in the following map.

This platform will be further updated and used by the Municipality; and at the same time, individuals, residents in the municipality and/or traveling to it, will have the possibility to integrate data into the platform regarding the accessibility of a road and/or place in Kolonja.

⁴ <https://gisapps.eu/>

Figure 5: 4Plus – PWD distribution, Kolonja Municipality





The emergency guide goes through 3 steps:

Recognition of risks

- Earthquake hazard
- Flood risk (torrential rains, storms, etc.)
- Severe storms
- Pandemics
- Snow and avalanches
- Massive fires in forests and pastures
- Landslide hazards
- Technological / industrial risks
- Terrorist acts.

Making a plan

- Every **family needs an emergency plan**.
- It will take you about **20 minutes to make your plan**. Your family may not be together when an emergency situation arises.
- Plan **how to meet or how to contact each other** and discuss what you would do in different situations.
- **Get information from your municipality** about emergency plans.
- **Keep the document in an easy-to-find**, easy-to-remember place (for example, with your emergency device).
- **Photocopy this plan** and keep it in your car and / or at work, and a copy close to your phone. Keep an **electronic version** on your computer.
- Work with your neighbours to **identify PWD** who may need extra help during an emergency.
- **Update your emergency plan** a year from now.
- **Review your contact information**
- **Practice your evacuation plans**.
- Change batteries, food and water in emergency kits once a year.

Taking measures

- **Design a floor plan of your home** that shows all possible exits from each room.
- **Plan a main exit route** and an alternative exit route from each room.
- If you live in an apartment, plan to use the stairs instead of the elevators.
- If you are unable to use the stairs, notify emergency personnel in advance.
- **Identify an evacuation route** from your neighborhood in case you need to leave in a hurry (and think of more than one option).
- **Identify safe places where everyone should meet** if you can not go home or need to be evacuated.
- **Prepare an emergency bag** - it should have the main medication, address, contact number, contact of your doctor, signaling equipment, etc.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management is organized in four different phases, but which are inevitably intertwined with each other. **These phases are prevention, preparation / preparedness, coping / action and rehabilitation.**

Figure 7: Emergency Management phases, Kolonja Municipality



The first stage of prevention

It is about identifying the potential risk in certain areas, preparing and taking corrective measures of this identified risk. These measures will serve to reduce or eliminate the risk and potential impact on the community. The assessment of potential risk is performed through quantitative and qualitative analysis of the nature and other circumstances for the expected occurrence of natural or other disasters.

The above mentioned persons, as part of the group which requires special care in such cases should be identified during this phase.

What do we mean by evidencing this group?

The Municipality of Kolonja should set up a database identifying each family and each person belonging to the above group. This will be completed through the proper use and upgrade/update of the GIS platform system created under 4PLUS project, identifying families or persons with disabilities living in these areas. Part of this phase is the categorization of these persons so that the Municipality or intervention forces in cases of natural disasters to be known and have information on persons and their status who are at risk. This would greatly assist volunteer teams or search and rescue personnel in taking appropriate action during rescue operations.

Good administration of construction permits

The Municipality of Kolonja has already approved the General Local Plan (GLP) and according to this plan the areas of interventions, construction areas or others have been clearly identified. An integral part of this plan is the Strategic Environmental Assessment which has managed to identify risk points.

Therefore, it remains the duty of the Municipality of Kolonjë to administer the building permits as effectively as possible according to the approved criteria, not allowing constructions in areas which are known as dark spots and which are more likely to be hit by natural disasters such as floods, avalanches, fires or landslides.

Drafting evacuation plans in every residential building, service, social center or public institution.

As part of taking preventive measures, especially in case of fire, it is necessary to draft and establish evacuation plans in each building. This would help a lot, especially people who have lost their hearing, to orient themselves during the closest exit in case of danger.

Infrastructure interventions

Public infrastructure must be adapted to any type of age group. This not only in cases of natural disasters but also in everyday life. This infrastructure should be adapted mainly for people with disabilities. *Decision no. 1503, dated 19.11.2008 "Regulation on the use of spaces by persons with disabilities"* is a regulation which contains all the technical details for the realization of the elements of conformity to the appropriate standards, as in the following articles:

Article 6: Spaces for pedestrians

Public space and urbanization projects should provide an access road for the use of lifting plants for social services and the use of the premises.

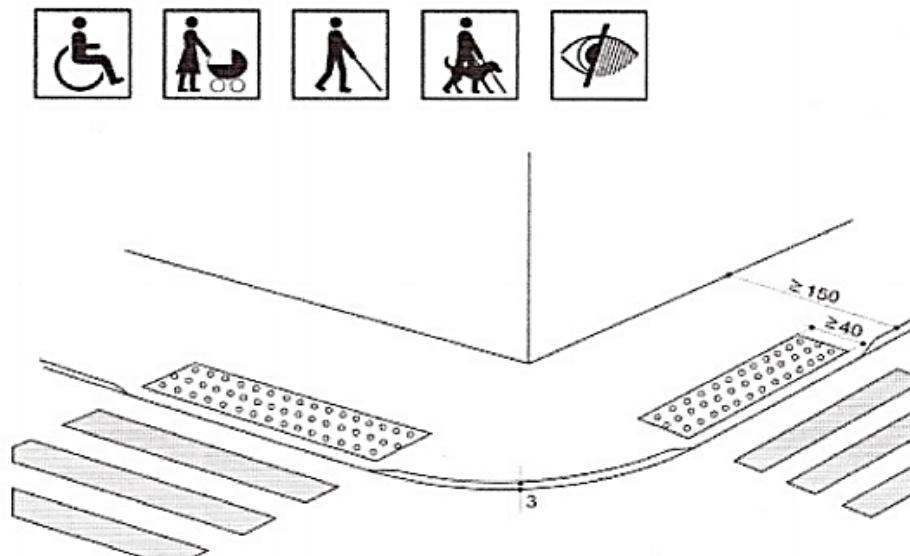


Figure 8: Sidewalks according to the technical regulation

Article 9: Stairs and platforms

Stairs must ensure regular and uniform walking throughout their length. Stairs & ramps, platforms should have a width of min. 120 cm in outdoor spaces and 110 cm in indoor spaces, with a limited and constant slope. The ramp should have a slope of up to 1:20 (5%), a holding handle with a height of 10cm and an anti-slip surface.

Article 19: Signaling

Signage in buildings and accessible spaces to be placed in a visible way with instructions for orientation and use of built spaces.

Article 26: Parking lots

In public parking lots and garages, as well as near construction sites 5% of seats fit in relation to the total number of parking spaces, but not less than one.

Although the legal framework seems complete to guarantee suitability in our cities, in transport and information, its implementation remains problematic.

All social centers or buildings that have been identified as evacuation centers in cases of natural disasters, must have hygienic and sanitary infrastructure for people with disabilities (service toilets, ramps, corimano, etc).

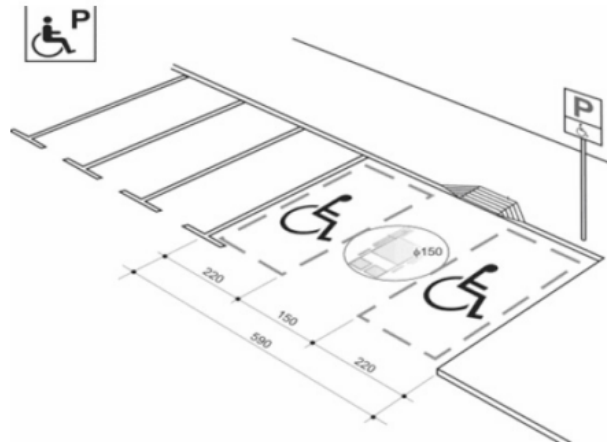


Figure 9: Parking lots according to the technical regulation

SMART systems

In smart systems that can be effective is the construction of a mobile application through which people with disabilities are notified of the danger that threatens them and are on alert for groups that will come to their aid. This application will be efficient and distinctive for each group listed as disabled.

The second phase of preparation / readiness

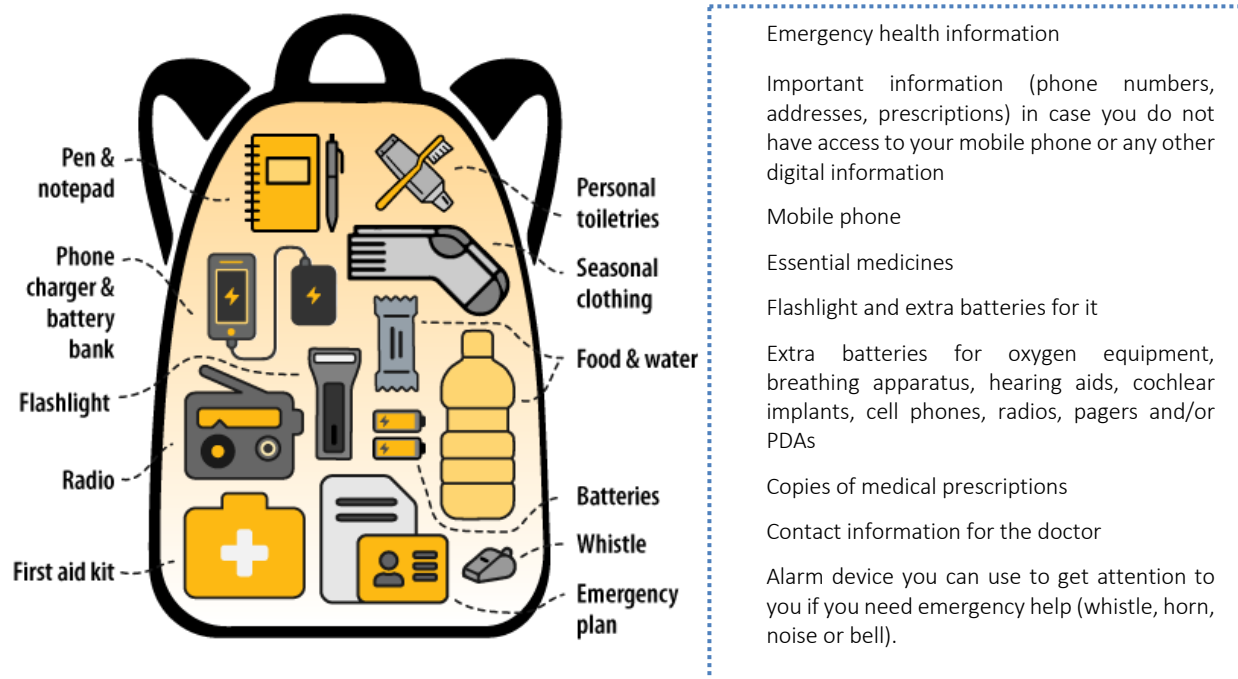
They are related to the qualitative and quantitative training not only of the relevant structures of the Municipality but also of the Council or other structures. Also, at this stage, the necessary resources are identified and the ways in which these resources will be used. At this stage, protective measures are prepared which are organizational, technical and any other measures for the immediate individual and collective protection of people, persons with disabilities, living things, property, institutions, cultural heritage and the environment, against the consequences of natural or other disasters.

During this phase, volunteer groups, the Fire Protection and Rescue forces as well as any person who feels capable of being part of these structures in case of disasters, should be trained on what preparatory measures should be taken in advance.

These measures are mainly related to the construction of a Basic Disaster Supplies Kit (emergency bag) with the most necessary things in case of emergencies. The bag should be easy to carry and with the things you cannot do without them and you need.

The carrying kit must contain:

Figure 10: Basic Disaster Supplies Kit (emergency bag)



Measures to be taken by the Municipality of Kolonja

- Regularly notify the Prefect (Sector for Planning, Civil Emergency and Crisis Management) of any changes in contact points in the relevant unit.
- Confirm the functioning of the warning and communication system with the public.
- Check and update the transport logistics inventory including the number of cars, their technical condition, fuel availability and its reserve at the Municipality level.
- Check and update data on the types and location of heavy machinery owned by both the state and private sector at the municipal level.
- Control the taking of other measures for protection from possible risk phenomena at the level of Administrative Unit and municipality, including taking measures to ensure the cleaning of canals and collectors from waste or inert materials.
- Familiarize the community with evacuation routes and the construction of orientation signs, means of communication during emergencies, media and protection areas and safe havens.
- Awareness of the community about the necessity of storing food, water and other minimal reserves in a situation of civil emergency and crisis.
- Equip with emergency evacuation carts in each evacuation center in case of disasters.

The third phase of coping

It includes the overall actions of the municipality, other public and private entities and the community to face a current risk or a present situation of local civil emergency. The operations undertaken at this stage are the actions of forces and means, to save the lives of people, people with disabilities, living things and material values (property) in a territory affected by the disaster, as well as the provision of living conditions of the population affected by the disaster.

Assistance for people with disabilities / special needs

- Ask if the person wants your help and how you can best help them.
- If someone refuses your help, wait for the first responders to come, unless it is life or death.
- Do not touch the person, their service animal or their equipment without their permission, unless it is life or death.
- Follow the instructions posted on the special needs bag.
- You may be required to use latex-free gloves to reduce the spread of viral infection or to prevent an allergic reaction to latex.
- Ask the person if their body areas have reduced sensation and if they want you to check those areas for injury.
- Do not try to displace someone if you are not trained in the proper techniques.
- If a person is unconscious or irresponsible, do not administer any liquid or food.
- If the person has a service animal, it is the responsibility of the pet owner to assess whether or not it is safe for the animal to work through the emergency situation.
- To make this decision, the service pet owner will need information about the nature of the hazards they are expected to face and any changes in the physical environment.
- If providing assistance with viewing, the first responder or caregiver must confirm that the service animal is not working, and is therefore off duty.
- If possible, use latex-free gloves when providing personal care.
- Try to make sure the person's wheelchair is transported with the person.
- If this is not possible, use other evacuation techniques, as appropriate, such as using an evacuation chair, on-site accommodation (if instructed to do so), or lifts and carries by trained personnel.
- Do not push or pull a person's cart without their permission, unless it is life or death.

Access / mobility

Mobility restrictions can make it difficult for a person to use stairs or move quickly over long distances. Limitations may include reliance on mobility equipment such as wheelchairs, pedestrians, crutches or prostheses. People with heart problems or difficulty breathing may also have limited mobility.

People with invisible disabilities

Individuals with invisible disabilities may have difficulty performing certain tasks even though their condition is unclear. Inconspicuous disabilities may include communication, cognitive, sensory, mental health, learning, or intellectual disabilities which may impair an individual's response to an emergency.

Conditions may include allergies, epilepsy, diabetes, lung or heart disease, and / or dependence on dialysis, various supplies, etc.

- Allow the person to describe the help they need.
- Find effective ways to communicate, such as drawn or written instructions, using signs instead of general terms like "go left" or "turn right".
- Maintain eye contact when talking to the person.
- Repeat the instructions (if necessary).
- If a person needs medication, ask if he / she needs help to get it. (Never offer medicines that are not prescribed by a doctor).

People with disabilities who have a hearing problem

How emergency warnings are issued in an emergency is essential to understanding the instructions and the subsequent response and safety of those with hearing loss.

- Get the person's attention through a visual suggestion or a gentle touch on their arm. Do not approach the person from behind.
- Face the person, make eye contact when talking to them, as they can rely on lip-reading and communicate in close proximity.
- Speak clearly and naturally. Do not shout or speak slowly unnaturally.
- Try to rephrase, rather than repeat yourself.
- Use gestures to help illustrate your point.
- If there is time, it may be helpful to write a message.
- Hearing aids amplify sounds and can create a physical shock to the user, so do not make loud noises.
- Note that some people may be blind.

People with disabilities who have vision problems

A person who is blind or visually impaired may have difficulty reading signs or moving through unfamiliar environments during an emergency situation. They may feel lost and / or dependent on others for guidance.

- For people who are not blind, draw an "X" on the back with your finger to let them know you can help.
- To lead a person, take half a step forward, offer them your arm, and walk at their own pace.
- Do not shout at a person who is blind or has reduced vision. Speak clearly and give specific instructions.
- Provide advance notice of upcoming stairs, major obstacles or changes in direction.
- Look for obstacles a person may face before entering.
- Never catch a visually impaired person unless it is life or death.
- Do not assume that the person cannot see you.

- Avoid the term "there"; describe positions such as, "to the right / left / straight ahead / behind you", or using the clock face positions (i.e. exit is at 12 o'clock).
- If the person has a service animal on duty, ask them where to walk so as not to distract the animal. Do not separate the service animal from its owner.

Elderly people with disabilities / special needs

The elderly, especially those with special needs, should be informed what to do in an emergency. You should keep in touch with your municipality or commune to find out about emergency plans, programs and services in your area that will help you during an emergency and help you get back into your daily routine.

- Check the neighbors to see if there are any elderly people who will need your help during an emergency.
- Always speak calmly and make sure you are there to help. Avoid shouting or speaking slowly.
- Let the person tell you how you can help.
- Follow the instructions posted on special needs equipment and / or accessories.

People with disabilities living in a high-rise building

- Check with neighbors and / or people with special needs to find out if they need your help.
- Offer your help to transport the person's emergency bag along with any special equipment.
- Avoid attempts to raise, support, or assist someone moving down stairs unless you are familiar with safe techniques.
- Do not use elevators in the event of fire or smoke, or if an emergency is likely to lead to a power outage.

The fourth phase of rehabilitation

Involves community and resident efforts to return to normality. By rehabilitation we mean the measures and actions taken to return to the previous state in the region (territory) affected by the disaster.

The responsibility for the health and well-being of the inhabitants of the municipality is the responsibility of the local elected officials and the administration of the municipality. The municipality must be prepared, within its competencies and available resources, to face the risks that may arise from a civil emergency in its territory.

Most vulnerable are power supply leaks, drinking water installations, sewage and road surfaces which can be seriously damaged by frequent freezing and thawing operations.

Secondary flooding from frequent melts constitutes a factor that should be considered immediately in the recovery phase and may represent a second emergency event.

In the municipality of Kolonja, an area at risk of flooding is the one at the entrance of the town of Erseka, the village of Prodan, the village of Qafzez, the village of Psar, etc.

Restoring existing communication and transport links is an absolute priority and an opportunity to strengthen systems and mitigate the effects of heavy rainfall.

A complete review should be done at local and regional level regarding the rainfall situation, plans and actions of the structures as well as the quality of the operations undertaken in the coping phase.

Rehabilitation to normal for people with disabilities requires some precautions. Before returning to their homes, they must make sure that their home does not pose a risk. Medications and any other means necessary for their recovery must be provided. These people should be offered a social worker who will help to overcome the situation after the emergency more easily.

- After an emergency situation, try to stay calm.
- Check yourself and others for injuries. Give first aid to injured or trapped people. Take care of life-threatening situations first. Get help if needed.
- Check for neighbors, especially the elderly or people with disabilities.
- Limit or provide for pets.
- Use battery packs from your emergency kit to listen for information and instructions.
- Do not use the phone except to report a life-threatening injury. Please leave the lines free for official use.
- If possible, wear sturdy shoes and protective clothing to prevent damage from debris, especially broken glass.
- If you are inside, check the building for structural damage. If you suspect it is unsafe, leave and do not log in again.
- Do not turn on the switches or light fixtures until you are sure that there is no gas leak or flammable liquid. Use a flashlight to control utilities.
- If you turn off the gas, do not turn it on again. This should be done by a qualified technician.
- If tap water is available, fill a bathtub and other utensils in case the supply is interrupted.
- If there is no running water, keep in mind that you can have water available in a hot water tank, toilet tank or ice cube tray.
- The water supply can be contaminated, so clean your water.
- Do not use the toilets if you suspect that sewer lines are broken.
- If you are in a tall building, do not use the elevator in the event of a power outage. If you are in an elevator, press any floor button and get out as soon as possible.
- Get your kids out of school or the default meeting point.
- Stay away from affected areas unless you are asked to help or are qualified to provide assistance.
- Do not go near loose or hanging power lines. Drowned power lines can cause fires and carry enough power to cause damage. Report them and any broken sewer and water supply to the authorities.
- If the electricity is off for several hours, check the food in the refrigerator in case it is broken.



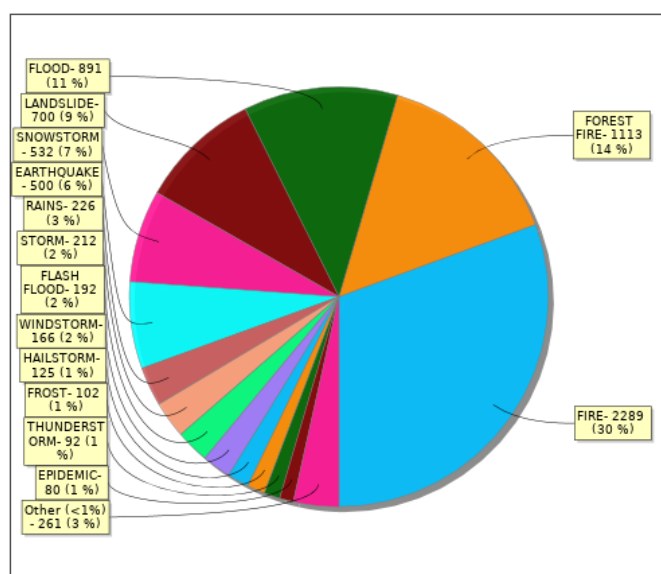
RISK OF NATURAL DISASTERS



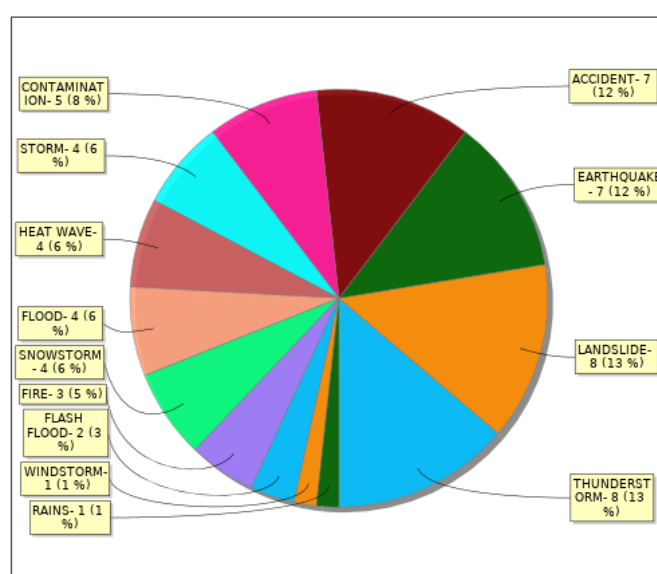
MOST COMMON NATURAL DANGERS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KOLONJE

The following charts, generated from DesInventar⁵, provides a basic understanding of the effects of many types of disasters occurred in the region of Korça, compounded of Kolonja Municipality as well. As it can be noted from the following graphs the effects on number of people affected and deaths are most comment from forest fires, fires, floods, landslides and snowstorms.

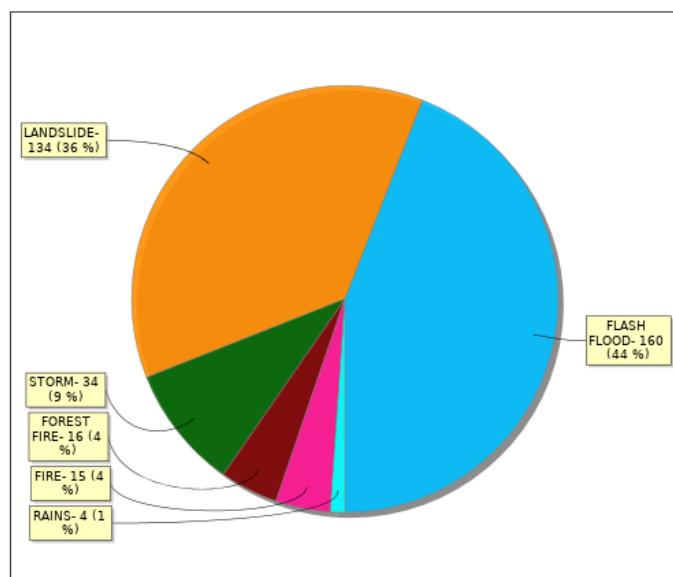
Graph 1: Types of natural dangers in Korça Region



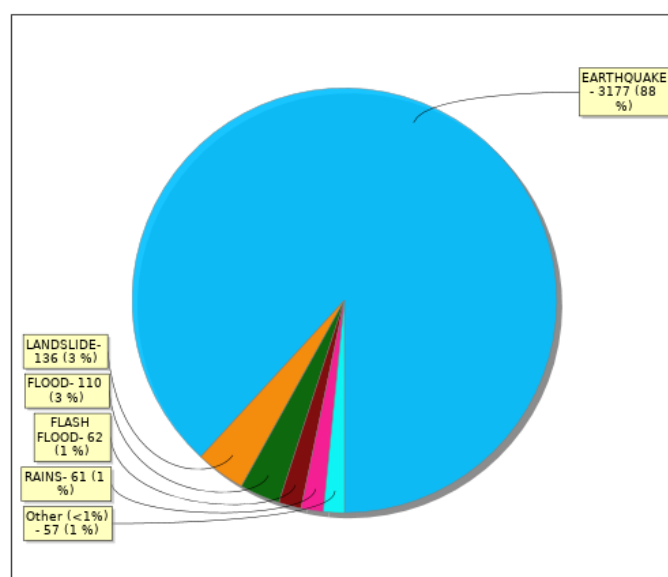
Graph 2: Number of deaths per natural disaster in Korça Region



Graph 3: Indirectly + directly affected in Korça Region



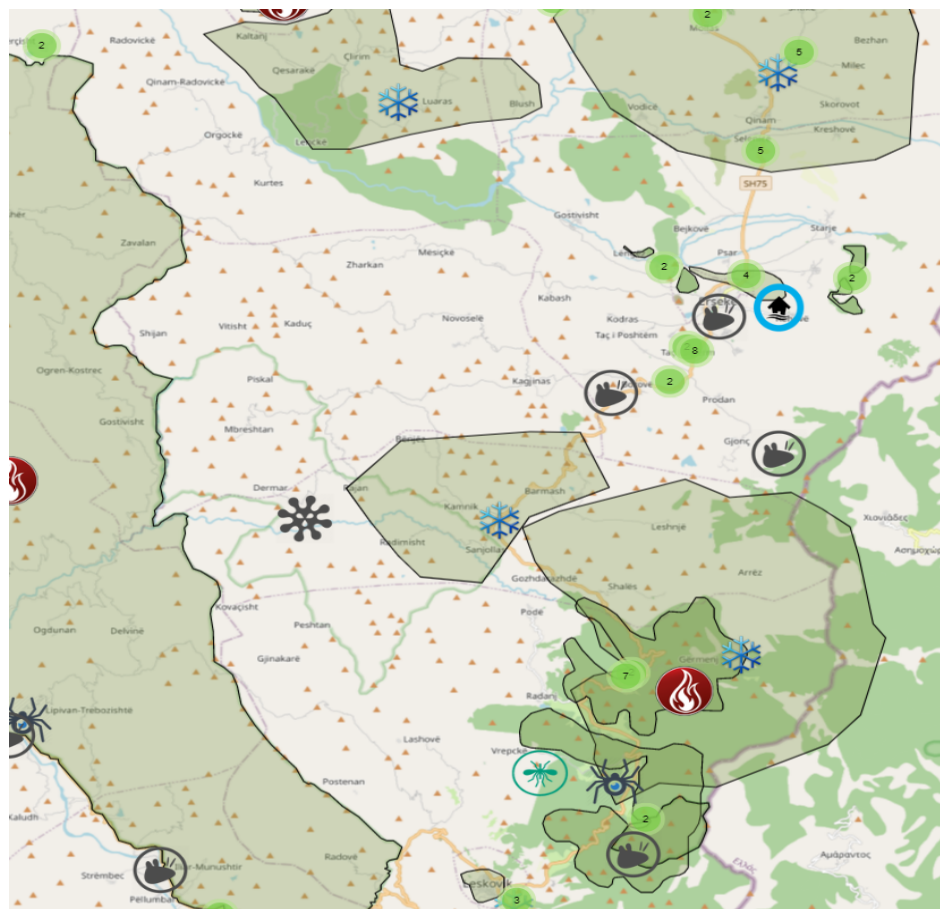
Graph 4: Houses Destroyed / Damaged in Korça Region



⁵ DesInventar is a conceptual and methodological tool for the generation of National Disaster Inventories and the construction of databases of damage, losses and in general the effects of disasters, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNDRR.

The two main hazards affecting Kolonja are (i) massive fires in forests and pastures and (ii) heavy snowfall; as presented also in the following map⁶. While, other hazards include landslides, earthquake risk, flood risk and lately the danger from pandemics.

Figure 11: Disaster map Kolonja Municipality



Legend



Snow isolation



Pratylenchus neglectus



Anopheles



Floods



Fire



Hyalomma marginatum

Danger from massive fires

Fires are often events of a smaller scale, having a dramatic impact on life, property and victims, but are not considered a civil emergency, with the exception of fires that cover large areas of shrubs or forests as the latter can cause destruction in a wide area.

⁶ <http://albmaps.asig.gov.al/hotspotalbani/#9/39.5877/21.1569>

The main causes of fires are caused by people including negligence, improperly controlled agricultural activities such as burning pastures, accidents and intentional arson.

As a result, specific risk areas are easily identifiable while prevention, mitigation, protection and preparation are possible and can have significant effects on risk reduction.

In the case of fires involving entire surfaces, the results are very difficult to control, whether these are man-made fires or natural fires, and wind direction is a particular factor in their predictability.

In the case of the municipality of Kolonjë the greatest risk of fires in forests and pastures is evident during the summer period, where it has increased significantly both in frequency and in the size of the affected areas. The greatest risk of fire is in coniferous forests.

The most endangered forest areas in the territory of the Municipality of Kolonjë are:

- Kozel-Qafa e Kazanit area
- Selenica area of Pisha-Psar i Zi
- Zona Gërmenj - m. Ballast-square of pellets
- Radat Zone
- Shelegur Gorge area-Kabashi Rock

Paid attention in case of forest fires border areas with the Greek state, which have a cross-border effect. The border line with the Greek state is 51 km. For this, contacts are maintained with the Central institutions and the National Agency of Civil Protection is informed for timely information in case of emergency.

How to prepare for the danger that comes from fires

If your community is surrounded by pasture or forest, follow these guidelines to prepare your home and family for potential fires.

- Prepare an emergency bag.
- Check and remove fire hazards in and around your home, such as dried branches, leaves, and debris.
- Keep a good sprayer in an accessible place.
- Learn fire safety techniques and teach them to your family members.
- Do fire drills with your family regularly.
- Maintain first aid supplies to treat the injured until help arrives.
- Make an escape plan so that all family members know how to get out of the house quickly and safely.
- Make an emergency plan so family members can contact each other in case they split up during an evacuation.
- Make sure all family members are familiar with the "STOP, THROW, AND ROLL" technique in case your wardrobe catches fire.
- Make sure every floor and all sleeping areas have smoke detectors.
- Consult with the relevant structures of PMNZSH regarding the measures taken by your house to make it fire resistant.
- If you are on a farm, sheltering livestock can be the wrong thing to do because a wildfire can trap animals inside, causing them to burn alive. Leaving animals unsafe is preferable, or if time and personal safety allow, evacuation away from the danger zone should be considered.
- Take appropriate measures to evacuate persons with disabilities in the event of a fire.

If you see a fire approaching your apartment

If you see a fire approaching the house or in the area where you live, report it immediately to the relevant structures or to the police number. If you are sure and there is time before the fire arrives, you should take the following action:

- Close all windows and doors in the house.
- Cover ducts, windows and other openings in the house with duct tape and / or detailed pieces of plywood.
- Park your car, positioned forward off-road. Keep car windows closed and your precious packages already packed in your car.
- Turn off propane or natural gas.
- Turn on the lights in the house, porch, garage and yard.
- Inside the house, move combustible materials such as light curtains and furniture away from windows.
- Place a ladder on the roof in front of the house.
- Place lawn sprinklers on the roof of the house and turn on the water.
- Keep all burns away from the house, including firewood and furniture.
- Evacuate family and pets to a safe place.
- Wait at your local radio station for updated information on fires and possible road closures.

Risk of heavy snowfall

The territory of the Municipality is mostly mountainous, and for the most part with mountainous and hilly slopes with vegetation and forests throughout the territory intertwined together.

These circumstances are unsuitable for the creation and activation of avalanches. The national and rural road network as well as the electricity distribution lines have been significantly damaged.

Heavy snow is likely to occur in certain areas of Kolonjë municipality depending on the season. Short-term forecasting is generally possible through standard weather forecast reports and meteorological reports.

The primary effects are felt on roads and means of communication, which quickly isolate the community, only 10-15 cm of snow can stop normal traffic and especially in mountainous regions this blockage also hinders emergency services. A 25-30 cm snow tank can completely block normal traffic, power lines as well as other communication links can be affected just as quickly.

The impact is usually short-term, with no major economic consequences on the population, especially cold weather conditions and the thickness of the snow can continue for days, even weeks, so the population is forced to stay inside until the hazard condition passes. A 30-day blockade is considered critical to civil emergency and crisis planning, after which community food supplies are running low.

Cold storms and frost-induced temperatures can have a catastrophic effect on power lines and can make impassable and dangerous roads dangerous. Very low temperatures can cause set-up and damage to the water supply system, freezing of sewage canals and considerable damage to agriculture and livestock.

Side effects are associated with immediate flooding following a rapid thaw or subsequent freezing that aggravates road crossings as well as communication blockages.

When the thickness of the snow is more than 30 cm, as well as when there are some other parameters avalanches pose a specific danger on steep sides, their immediate strength is beyond the destructive measure for life and property.

Factors to consider during the prevention and relief phase

Timely warning is usually possible and the population should be immediately on alert through a standard and practical system which is realized through telephone and media notification through continuous contacts with the administrators of the administrative units, the administrators of the local units and the leaders of the Local Commission of the Police.

While heavy snowfall cannot be prevented. This requires highly specified work involving continuous monitoring and other tools including controlled blasting to reduce snow accumulation in endangered areas.

Raising public awareness of the importance of preserving a stockpile of perishable food items, providing heat and shelter, having warm clothes, blankets and drinking water. The population should be clarified as much as possible not to travel outside the area, during heavy snowfall especially alone.

Heavy and often wet rainfall carries a fairly high risk of damage to dwellings as a result of heavy weight. The population should be informed about this in order to clean the roofs of the apartments.

Factors to consider when preparing and defending

There should be specific plans for closing schools and other non-essential services.

The identification of people and families who are most vulnerable to bad weather, including families with the elderly and young children, should be done in advance as much as possible.

Special plans should be drawn up to strengthen basic services, such as buildings providing medical services in order to ensure the continuity of these services in such a situation and to provide heating, independent energy supply, fuel, lighting, food, drinking water and sufficient persons at work and on standby.

The contact points should be known and preliminary contracts should be prepared that can be concluded with private entities, if necessary.

Contacts with the most appropriate search and rescue service for family members in the most dangerous places should be kept daily.

Preparedness plans should also be prepared to provide large-scale assistance if difficult conditions continue, this may include food rations and other types of assistance, shelter for those who have left their homes as a result of the situation created.

Factors to consider during the emergency response phase

The immediate need is to provide timely information to ensure that the entire population at risk is aware of the situation encouraged and helped to move or stay in a safe housing facility.

In the event of heavy snowfall it may be necessary to plan safe temporary shelters.

At this stage the exchange of information with the population is very important. Missing persons should be identified by name and their whereabouts should also be specified and, if necessary, search and rescue operations should be undertaken as soon as possible.

There is a specific risk for people trapped in cars which must be rescued by competent and well-equipped search and rescue teams, who must be sent to safe places previously identified, until the danger level decreases.

Disconnected transport links are an advantage to reopen. Restrictions may be placed on the types of machines to favor snow clearing machines and machines used to supply items needed for the emergency situation. If rainfall continues to spread over time, food rations, blankets and possibly even warm clothing will be needed immediately for the population that has been transferred to temporary shelters and even more so for families who are isolated in their homes. After a short time, institutions that are characterized by a high population density, such as hospitals and collective housing will require additional assistance, as their full functioning is very important.

If heating systems do not work, the lack of electricity from fuel and other fuels can make a portion of the population extremely vulnerable to cold and insulation. The situation must be constantly monitored and reviewed and it is necessary to take prompt action.

Earthquake Risk

Kolonjë district lies in the area with seismic source of the collision of the plate of Adrio and Albanida, which is the main cause of earthquakes in our district. Expected ground accelerations for different scenarios that match the possible earthquakes is Leskovik, Qafzezi. With intense seismic activity ($1.0 < M < 3.0$), from very small earthquakes ($3.0 < M < 5.0$) from rare earthquakes of medium size ($5.0 < M < 7.0$).

Every year this circle is almost hit by light seismic oscillations ranging from 2 to 3-4 points.

The strongest earthquakes that have hit the district of Kolonjë are:

- December 23, 1919
- In 1974
- In 1987
- In 2004
- Leskovik is predicted for destruction in residential buildings.
- On June 1, 2019

The cities and villages most affected by the earthquake are: City of Leskovik, Administrative Unit Q.Ersekë, villages Gostivisht, Selenicë, Administrative Unit Barmash, villages Barmash, Sanjollas, Shala, Administrative Unit Mollas, villages Qafzez, Qnam, Butkë, Boshanj etc.

Precautions to be taken before an earthquake

Go through your house, imagining what might happen to each part of it if it is shaken by a powerful earthquake.

- Teach everyone in the family (if they are old enough) how to turn off the water and electricity.
- Clearly label closed positions for water, electricity and gas. If your home is equipped with natural gas, take measures to have the safest gas tank.
- Connect the water heater to the switches together with other heavy equipment (stove, washer, dryer), especially those that can break gas or water lines if moved or dropped.
- Provide high furniture. Keep heavy items on the bottom shelves.
- Mirrors, paintings and other hanging items securely, so they will not fall off the pendants.
- Find beds and chairs away from chimneys and windows. Do not hang heavy pictures and other items on the beds. Closed curtains will help prevent window glass from falling into the beds.
- Place anti-slip pads under TVs, computers and other small appliances or secure them with another such product.
- Keep flammable items and household chemicals away from heat and where they are less likely to spill.

- Consult a professional to discover additional ways to protect your home, such as laying the house on its foundation and other structural mitigation techniques.
- If you live in an apartment or multi-storey building, work with your building administrator to decide how to evacuate your unit. Seek advice from professionals (civil engineers, emergency preparedness authorities) if you are unsure of what to do.

During the earthquake

Wherever you are when an earthquake starts, cover immediately. If necessary move a few steps to a safe place nearby. Stay there until the shaking stops.

- Stay inside.
- Hide under heavy furniture such as a table, bed or any solid furniture.
- Cover your head to avoid being hit by falling objects.
- Hold the object in which you are, in order to remain covered.
- If you are in a mall, go to the nearest store.
- Stay away from windows and shelves with heavy objects.
- If you are at school, get under a desk and keep your face away from the windows.
- If you are in a wheelchair, close the wheels and protect the back of your head and neck

If you are out

- Stay out.
- Go to an open area away from buildings.
- If you are in a crowded place, get caught where you will not fall.

If you are in the car

- Park in a safe place, where you are not blocking the road. Keep roads free for rescue and emergency vehicles.
- Avoid bridges, overpasses, underpasses, buildings or anything that could collapse.
- Stop the car and stay inside.
- Listen to the radio in your car for instructions from emergency officials.
- Do not attempt to get out of your car if the power lines are down. Wait to escape.
- Put a HELP sign in your window if you need help.
- If you are on the bus, stay in your seat until the bus stops. Get cover in a sheltered place. If you cannot cover, sit in a grasping position and protect your head.

After the earthquake

Still. Help others if you can.

- Get ready for the backstage.
- Listen to the radio or television for information from the authorities. Follow their instructions. Only make calls if they need urgent services.
- Wear sturdy shoes and protective clothing to help prevent damage from debris, especially broken glass.
- Check your home for structural damage and other hazards. If you suspect your home is unsafe, do not log in again.
- If you have to leave your home, take your emergency bag and other essentials with you. Put a message in clear view, indicating where you can be found. Do not consume food or water as supplies may be interrupted.

- Do not light matches or turn on the light switches until you are sure that there is no gas leak or flammable liquid spilled. Use a flashlight to check the services and do not turn them off unless they are damaged.
- If tap water is still available immediately after the earthquake, fill a bathtub and other containers in case the supply is interrupted. If there is no running water, keep in mind that you can have water available in a hot water tank (make sure the water is not hot before you touch it) and the toilet tank (not the bowl).
- Carefully clean any hazardous spilled material. Wear proper hand and eye protection.
- Check your neighbors after taking care of your family members. Organize rescue measures if people are trapped or call for emergency help if you cannot help them safely.
- If you have pets, try to find and comfort them. If you need to evacuate, take them to a pre-designated pet-friendly shelter.
- Put a HELP sign in your window if you need help.
- Beware of side effects. Although tremors are the main source of earthquake damage, the side effects can also be very devastating. These include landslides, saturated sandy soils becoming soft and volatile, flooding of low-lying areas, and tsunami risk over coastlines.

Danger from pandemics

One of the dangers in the territory of the Municipality of Kolonjë and not only, are the flu, which are seasonal infectious diseases. It starts from October to May. The source of infection is the sick person. The infection is transmitted directly from humans. The type of virus in circulation for 2020 is COVID -19, which takes on an epidemic and pandemic character.

Factors of virus spread

- Gathering people in public places
- The movement of people from one place to another.
- Irregular control of people regarding their health.

In the event of a pandemic, the health care services provided by doctors, nurses and hospitals may be reduced or unavailable, due to high demand.

If you get sick, you may be told to stay home rather than visit an emergency team. Talk to your healthcare provider about options for ongoing health care services for chronic conditions, such as diabetes. Banks may be closed. Plan to keep money at home for urgent purchases. Stores may be closed. Keep essential extra supplies, such as food and medicine, available. Childcare facilities and schools may be closed. Have a backup plan for child care. Transportation (for example, bus services, airlines and taxis) can be disrupted.

Measures to be taken by the Municipality of Kolonjë in a health emergency situation

- The Civil Protection Commission in the Municipality of Kolonjë is meeting
- Continuously monitors the situation on the ground.
- Reporting the situation and proposing special measures for the prevention of COVID-19 flu, as well as other infectious diseases.
- Reporting the situation in the sector of Planning, Emergency Management in the Prefecture and the National Agency of Civil Protection.
- Sending plan requests for the needs needed to cope with the situation.

Flood risk

Floods are a natural hazard that can occur at any time of the year and are most often caused by heavy rainfall, the rapid melting of a thick pack of snow, ice blockages, or less frequently, the failure of a natural or created dam by man.

Before a flood

To reduce the possibility of flood damage

- Clean the drainage channels and make sure they are at a sufficient distance from your residence to ensure that water escapes from the building.
- Consider installing a submersible pump and reverse flow valves in the event of a basement flood.
- Do not store your important documents in the basement. Keep them at a higher level, protected from flood damage.
- If you have a livestock farm, remember that cattle have a natural "instinct" to detect flood water. They generally require higher ground if possible.

If the flood is approaching

- Move furniture, electrical appliances and other items to the floor above ground level.
- Remove toxic substances such as pesticides and insecticides from the flood zone to prevent contamination.
- Remove the toilet cassettes and place the basement drains and toilet connections with a wooden cork.
- Disconnect discounts if they are connected to the house sewer.
- In some cases, homes can be protected with sandbags or polyethylene barriers. This approach requires specific guidance from your local emergency officers.
- DO NOT attempt to turn off the electricity if water is present. Water and electrical wires can be deadly. Leave your home immediately and do not return until the authorities indicate that it is safe to do so.

During the flood

- Stay close to your radio to find out which areas are affected, which roads are safe, where to go and what to do if your local emergency team asks you to leave your home.
- Keep your emergency bag close to a mobile container.
- Return to your home when advised to do so by your local emergency authorities. Ignoring such a warning can endanger the safety of your family or those who may eventually have to come to your rescue.
- Follow the routes set by the officials. Do not use shortcuts. They can take you to a blocked or dangerous area.
- Leave a note informing others when you left and where you went. If you have a mailbox, leave a note there.
- If you are on foot, fast water can be stormy.
- If you are in the car, do not travel through flood waters or underpasses. The water may be deeper than it looks and your car may get stuck or grabbed by the fast water.
- Avoid crossing bridges if the water is high and flows quickly.
- If you are caught in fast water waters and your car is stuck, leave it and save yourself and your passengers.

After the flood

Restore your home in good condition as soon as possible to protect your health and prevent further damage to the home.

- Do not return home until authorities have advised that it is safe to do so.
- If the main power switch was not turned off before the flood, do not re-enter your home until a qualified electrician has determined that it is safe to do so.
- Use extreme caution when returning to your home after a flood.
- Equipment that may have been flooded poses a risk of shock or fire when switched on. Do not use electrical appliances, heating, pressure or sewage systems until the electrical components have been thoroughly cleaned, dried and inspected by a qualified electrician.
- The main electrical panel should be cleaned, dried and tested by a qualified electrician to ensure it is safe.
- Depending on where you live, your local government authority is responsible for the permitting process required before your power utility can reconnect power to your home.
- Maintain your hygiene when cleaning floods.
- Minimize contact with floodwater or anything that may have been in contact with it.
- Keep children and people with disabilities away from contaminated areas during cleaning operations.

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