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2030 UfM ACTION PLAN ON CIVIL PROTECTION AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

*A stronger, safer
Mediterranean.
Together.*



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GLOSSARY

Acronym	Meaning
CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DG ECHO	Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EMT	Emergency Medical Team
ERCC	Emergency Response Coordination Centre
EU	European Union
EWS	Early Warning System(s)
INSARAG	International Search and Rescue Advisory Group
MFCP	Mediterranean Framework on Civil Protection
OSA	On-Site Assistance
PPRD MED	Prevention, Preparedness and Response to natural and man-made Disasters in the Mediterranean
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
UCPM	Union Civil Protection Mechanism (European Union)
UfM	Union for the Mediterranean

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2030 UfM Action Plan on Civil Protection and Disaster Risk Management seeks to support and facilitate cooperation among UfM Member States in strengthening prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery systems. The Action Plan operates at a macro and diplomatic level, providing a platform for dialogue, alignment of approaches, knowledge exchange, and gradual convergence of practices.

The UfM Regional Dialogue Platform will act as a space for cooperation and technical exchange, helping Member States identify shared priorities, promote complementarity with the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and regional projects, and mobilise expertise and resources through partnerships with institutions, donors, academia, and the private sector. Its role is to facilitate, connect, and enable.

Strategic focus:

- Reinforce regional political dialogue and trust-building
- Support gradual interoperability and alignment of standards;
- Contribute to long-term regional stability and resilience.

Five priorities guide the Plan:

- 1. Public Awareness & Volunteerism:** Promote a shared culture of risk and facilitate volunteer engagement initiatives.
- 2. Preparedness & Capacity Development:** Support exchanges, joint exercises, and harmonisation of procedures where relevant.
- 3. Regional Disaster Assistance:** Encourage smoother coordination, notably by strengthening Host Nation Support and cross-border cooperation.
- 4. Institutional Strengthening:** Facilitate coherence across national and regional frameworks and help identify resource mobilisation opportunities.
- 5. Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting** – Establish review process to adjust priorities and integrate lessons learned over time.

By 2030, the Action Plan aims to support the establishment of an operational Mediterranean Framework on Civil Protection (MFCP) to facilitate alignment of national/regional/sub-regional frameworks and procedures related to Civil Protection within UfM Member States, for effective 'on the ground' action in connection, interface, and complementarity with the European Union's Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and its regional projects.

Progress will be reviewed annually to ensure flexibility and responsiveness to Member States' evolving priorities.

1. BACKGROUND

In recent years the Euro-Mediterranean region has been struck by large-scale crises which have crossed administrative borders. The primary hazards include wildfires, floods, earthquakes and technological threats, such as Chemical-Biological-Radiological-Nuclear (CBRN) incidents and marine pollution. Recent disasters, such as (non-exhaustive) the earthquakes in Türkiye, Syria and Morocco, the Beirut port blast, floods in Italy, Slovenia and Libya and forest fires in Algeria, Tunisia, Spain, Greece, Cyprus, illustrate the increase in frequency, intensity, impact and consequences of disasters which have put local actors at the forefront of public response, and highlighted the challenges in anticipation, coordinated and integrated response as well as recovery.

With climate change is being highlighted as a catalyst and amplifier of disasters^[1], and the Mediterranean region warming 20% faster than the global average^[2], time to act decisively is running out. It is imperative that Euro-Mediterranean countries strengthen and adapt civil protection systems to the consequences of climate change and adopt a multi-risk and transnational approach to disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

Given the complexity of the current risk-landscape in which diverse and complex scenarios converge, it is conceivable that current national and regional civil protection system response capacities will be overwhelmed. More than ever, we need strong measures and mechanisms for reducing risks and vulnerability and increasing resilience across the Euro-Mediterranean region. It is on this basis that a framework for Euro-Med cooperation in the field of civil protection and disaster risk management must be built in a supportive, multi-sectoral, multi-risk and cross-border approach.

It is upon this notion that the UfM Civil Protection mandate was established, and the 2030 UfM Action Plan on Civil Protection and Disaster Risk Management, presented here, has been developed.

2. THE UfM CIVIL PROTECTION MANDATE

Overall, the objective of the UfM Civil Protection mandate is to generate institutional and civil society exchanges with a view to enhance regional cooperation and integration among Euro-Mediterranean countries in the field of civil protection and disaster risk management, with a view to effectively prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies and disasters. This runs in accordance with the statement of the 5th UfM Regional Forum, which brought together the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Euro-Mediterranean region, on 27 November 2020, which highlighted the following: ***"The UfM Platform on Civil Protection should play a key role in the discussion of the common challenges and the concrete actions to develop within the Civil Protection Action Plan a strengthened Euro-Mediterranean cooperation on prevention campaigns, emergency response and crisis management."***

3. OBJECTIVE OF THE ACTION PLAN

The Action Plan is structured around the UfM Regional Dialogue Platform on Civil Protection, which aims to create a space for dialogue and partnerships between the UfM member states, institutions, professionals, experts, civil society organisations, the private sector, and other actors, in the field of civil protection, covering all aspects of crisis and disaster risk management (DRM), including prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

The main goals of the Regional Dialogue Platform are the following:

- **To discuss a common vision and develop a roadmap/action plan,**
- **To identify common issues from a national, cross-border, transnational, specific, and multi-sectoral perspective,**
- **To strengthen operational cooperation by defining harmonised procedures, techniques, and protocols,**
- **To share knowledge by exchanging good practices, experiences, and lessons learned,**
- **To plan and define formats for exchange and working sessions,**
- **To develop event calendars,**
- **To draw up and support projects,**
- **To liaise and connect with other UfM platforms.**

Using this space, the UfM wishes that the technical discussions, exchange of views, and elaboration of ideas which occur under the auspices of the Regional Dialogue Platform, will evolve into an operational Mediterranean Framework on Civil Protection and Disaster Risk Management (MFCP) for effective 'on the ground' action in connection, interface, and complementarity with the European Union's Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) and its regional projects: PPRD MED, the Multi country study risk, On-Site Assistance, etc.

To this end, in addition to its regular meetings, the UfM Regional Dialogue Platform is supported by three Working Groups: 1) Prevention; 2) Preparedness; 3) Response.

The actions presented below are neither final nor exhaustive. This document shall serve only as a basis for discussion and will be further developed following your reactions, contributions, reflections and validation of components.

In this context, all proposed actions shall:

- **Align with and complement existing national systems and the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.**
- **Be co-developed through the Regional Dialogue Platform and informed by working group outputs.**
- **Be designed to enable funding mobilisation, including through partnerships with donors, international finance institutions, and the private sector.**
- **Remain flexible, allowing countries to engage according to their capacities, priorities, and contexts.**

The 2030 UfM Action Plan on Civil Protection and Disaster Risk Management should be accomplished by the end 2030.

The 2030 UfM Action Plan on Civil Protection and Disaster Risk Management should be constantly updated to reflect the UfM member states' new priorities as well as integrating shared lessons learned. An annual reporting and peer-learning process will inform adjustments to priorities.



Priority 1

Enhance the awareness and participation of citizens in disaster prevention, preparedness and response.

Description:

Contribute to the recognition, sharing, dissemination and promotion of initiatives to develop a culture of risk and resilience in the Euro-Med region.

Volunteerism, a means of social integration which creates both trust and solidarity, should form a cornerstone of this priority. Volunteers are known to play a central role in civil protection and disaster risk management. By promoting volunteerism, we can significantly enhance our capacities for prevention and immediate response in the wake of disasters, response in the immediate aftermath of a disaster, in addition to raising general awareness about the main risks.

The outcomes of the UfM Working Groups underscore the benefits of establishing an Observatory of Volunteerism and emphasizes the need for a unified Euro-Mediterranean approach to public risk awareness. The following actions/activities, seek to promote collaborative communication strategies, which identify shared priority risks, as well as educational and communication materials tailored to local and regional risks, to develop collective resilience.

The sub-priorities are:

1a. Strengthen Public Risk Awareness.

Priority actions/activities to be implemented	Expected Results	Organisation/Country/Project Supporting the Implementation
<p>Identify joint priorities, risks and support the development of a public awareness strategy built on joint communication levers amongst the UfM Member States.</p>	<p>Development of joint educational and communication materials to address the risks at all levels of society.</p>	<p>UfM and member states contributions, Working groups & EU funded projects.</p>
<p>Label (UfM project labelling) the initiatives in terms of risk awareness implemented by national authorities.</p> <p>Initiatives at the regional level shall be proposed as part of the "Mediterranean Day" and/or the "International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction".</p> <p>The UfM will serve as a general platform to conduct more awareness raising.</p>	<p>Collection, sharing and promotion of regional initiatives in the context of the "Mediterranean Day" (November 28th) and/or the "International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction" (October 13th).</p>	<p>UfM Regional Dialogue Platform.</p>

1b. Foster community engagement and participation in civil protection initiatives through the development of an Observatory for Volunteerism.

Priority actions/activities to be implemented

Establish an Observatory for Volunteerism as a light, network-based knowledge hub.

The Observatory will not create new administrative structures, but will operate as a distributed network linking existing national volunteer systems.

Expected Results

Provide a platform for the study and analysis of volunteerism, as well as its promotion, exploitation and developing in the field of Civil Protection.

Organisation/Country/Project Supporting the Implementation

UfM and member states contributions, Working groups.



Priority 2

Enhance Euro-Mediterranean preparedness through capacity development.

Description:

Fostering regional preparedness is of paramount importance to enhance capacities to address shared risks effectively. The UfM Working Groups emphasised the need for greater focus on prevention and preparedness. The potential for a collaborative IT platform which can serve as a concrete tool for dialogue and knowledge exchange across the Mediterranean region, was highlighted. Moreover, based on lessons learnt, better risk mapping and further development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) can be achieved. Table-top and field exercises, trainings, as well as exchanges of best practices are essential to strengthen preparedness and collective capacities to respond to disasters. Particular attention will be given to climate-aggravated hazards such as wildfires, floods, droughts, coastal hazards, and cascading NaTech scenarios, which are increasingly relevant in the Mediterranean context.

The sub-priorities are:

2a. Strengthen Early Warning Systems.

Priority actions/activities to be implemented	Expected Results	Organisation/Country/Project Supporting the Implementation
Support dialogue on technical modernisation pathways for Early Warning Systems, while ensuring complementarity with the UCPM, Copernicus, and national capabilities.	To enhance common anticipation and prevention measures.	UfM Regional Dialogue Platform and PPRD MED.
Promote operational procedures for sharing information and triggering the alert.	To draft common procedures in sharing experiences and good practices	UfM Regional Dialogue Platform, PPRD MED and Multicountry study project.
Support cross-border agreement on EWS (e.g. data sharing).	To identify and map geographical cross border risk exposed.	UfM Regional Dialogue Platform, UfM member states and PPRD MED.

2b. Develop common frameworks for risk assessment, situational analysis and disaster risk management planning: common standards, harmonisation, predictability, prepositioning and technical specification for response capacities can be a valuable tool for deployment planning, decision making and on-site cooperation.

Priority actions/activities to be implemented	Expected Results	Organisation/Country/Project Supporting the Implementation
<i>Support the development of digital infrastructure for sharing and use of risk information.</i>	<i>IT platform.</i>	<i>UfM Regional Dialogue Platform, PPRD MED, Multicountry study project.</i>
<i>Increase reference to international (INSARAG, EMT, etc.) and EU certification standards for developing response capacities (including self-sufficiency and interoperability).</i>	<i>To anchor the Mediterranean Framework on Civil Protection to international standards.</i>	<i>UfM Regional Dialogue Platform.</i>
<i>Support twinning program ("jumelage") between civil protection departments in Mediterranean countries.</i>	<i>To share methods and SOPs.</i>	<i>UfM Regional Dialogue Platform, and PPRD MED.</i>

2c. Establish training programs for civil protection personnel in participating countries.

Priority actions/activities to be implemented	Expected Results	Organisation/Country/Project Supporting the Implementation
<i>Develop a network of schools/academies of excellence.</i>	<i>To develop a network. To share programs and experts.</i>	<i>UfM Regional Dialogue Platform.</i>
<i>Contribute to the implementation of training courses.</i>	<i>"Learning by doing" approach.</i>	<i>PPRD MED.</i>
<i>Support the implementation of exercises and simulations, in particular small-scale exercises based on SOPs, for specific identified needs at sub-regional and/or regional level.</i>	<i>To test and implement processes, techniques and procedures.</i>	<i>PPRD MED.</i>

2d. Facilitate knowledge exchange.

Priority actions/activities to be implemented	Expected Results	Organisation/Country/Project Supporting the Implementation
<i>Organise thematic workshops at regional and sub-regional levels on key high-impact risks in the Euro-Mediterranean region.</i>	<i>To enhance regional capacity, interoperability, and science-based planning for high-impact hazards.</i>	<i>UfM Regional dialogue platform, PPRD Med and DG-ECHO.</i>
<i>To support technical on-site assistance.</i>	<i>To enhance regional connections.</i>	<i>DG ECHO and On-Site Assistance project.</i>
<i>To support exchange programme and study visits.</i>	<i>To strength a network of experts.</i>	<i>DG ECHO, PPRD Med and On-Site Assistance projects.</i>



Priority 3

Strengthen regional disaster assistance

Description:

Disaster Risk Management and response capacities are increasingly being challenged and overwhelmed. In such cases, international cooperation and assistance becomes of crucial importance. Mediterranean countries should be able to call upon the support of their neighbours in times of need. The UfM Working Groups have underscored technical knowledge exchange, networking, and the development of a 'common language', as key elements for ensuring an adequate response throughout the Euro-Mediterranean region. A proper implementation of Host Nation Support is essential. Closer institutional cooperation is also fundamental to address the needs and priorities specific to the region and/or sub-region.

The sub-priorities are:

3a. Foster mutual assistance agreements among UfM countries to enable the rapid deployment of resources during emergencies.

Priority actions/activities to be implemented	Expected Results	Organisation/Country/Project Supporting the Implementation
<i>Support a regional legal framework mapping.</i>	<i>To identify good practices in policies to build up a Mediterranean Framework on Civil Protection and Disaster Risk Management.</i>	<i>UfM Regional Dialogue Platform, PPRD MED and Multicountry study project.</i>

3b. Establish a framework for requesting and providing Mediterranean assistance during major disasters, anchored to the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

Priority actions/activities to be implemented	Expected Results	Organisation/Country/Project Supporting the Implementation
Support the development of a comprehensive and integrated IT platform to support emergency response among UfM Members States and the European Commission.	To support the design and development of operational interface options.	DG ECHO (ERCC), UfM Regional Dialogue Platform and PPRD MED.
Support the identification and visibility of existing national capacities that could be made available internationally.	To identify and gather resources to be offered and deployed at international level (including cross-border, regional/sub-regional).	DG ECHO (ERCC), UfM Regional Dialogue Platform.
Strengthen interoperability and communication pathways between national coordination centres and the ERCC.	To support the establishment of a permanent and direct link between coordination entities. To support design on interlinkage tools and procedures.	UfM Regional Dialogue Platform, DG ECHO (ERCC).
Support the reflection and the potential design of Regional Coordination Center(s).	Assessment of interests and needs to develop Regional Coordination Center(s).	DG ECHO (ERCC), Multicountry Study Project.



Priority 4

National and Regional (Inter-) institutional Strengthening

Description:

The complexity, severity and frequency of today's disasters require a common approach. Inter-institutional cooperation in Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Risk Management are of great importance.

The outcomes of the UfM Working Groups have highlighted the need to adopt a more coherent approach to DRM on the national and regional scales, that leverages scientific advancements and innovations. Strengthening local structures and enhancing the capacities of local authorities, coupled with good governance, form the foundation for improved disaster planning and response. Establishing a more resilient chain of information and decision-making processes for efficient disaster management, is essential. Moreover, the engagement of various stakeholders, including greater integration of academia and experts, is vital in building a comprehensive and adaptive framework for disaster resilience and risk reduction.

The sub-priorities are:

4a. Establishment of a dedicated coordination umbrella.

Priority actions/activities to be implemented	Expected Results	Organisation/Country/Project Supporting the Implementation
<i>Promote alignment of national/sub-regional/regional legal frameworks within European and international standards and agreements related to civil protection.</i>	<i>To lay the foundations of a Mediterranean Framework on Civil Protection and Disaster Risk Management (MFCP).</i>	<i>UfM Regional Dialogue Platform, DG ECHO.</i>

4b. Identification and involvement of relevant stakeholders and donors for technical and financial support.

Priority actions/activities to be implemented	Expected Results	Organisation/Country/Project Supporting the Implementation
<i>Explore opportunities for public-private partnerships to leverage additional resources and expertise.</i>	<i>To promote and support the MFCP in a multidimensional stakeholder's approach.</i>	<i>UfM Regional Dialogue Platform.</i>

4c. Encourage UfM Member States and stakeholders to allocate resources for civil protection activities of the regional dialogue platform/MFCP.

Priority actions/activities to be implemented	Expected Results	Organisation/Country/Project Supporting the Implementation
<i>Support the connection between Member States with donors, development banks, and private-sector partners to identify co-financing opportunities. Public-private partnerships will be encouraged where appropriate.</i>	<i>To identify co-financing opportunities.</i>	<i>UfM Member States, All stakeholders.</i>

Priority 5

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

Description:

The launch, implementation and development of an operational MFCP is based on a complex governance framework that relies on a feedback loop generated by the UfM Regional Dialogue Platform on Civil Protection, and on continuous monitoring.

It is necessary to have permanent and punctual processes of evaluation, measurement, and improvement, in a flexible dimension to remain dynamic and responsive to the ever-changing environment and challenges faced. In a lessons learned prism, strategic, tactical and rational levels must be linked and coherent. Equally significant is the commitment to openly share the results of evaluations and lessons learned. By doing so, we foster a culture of transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement. The discussions of the UfM Working Groups reinforce the importance of this endeavour.

The sub-priorities are:

5. Establish a monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework to assess the effectiveness and report on the cooperation initiatives.

Priority actions/activities to be implemented

Expected Results

Organisation/Country/Project Supporting the Implementation

Conduct regular reviews to identify areas for improvement and adjust the 2030 UfM Action Plan on Civil Protection and Disaster Risk Management accordingly.

To build a permanent and sustainable process of improvement and adaptation.

UfM Regional Dialogue Platform, Member States.

Develop an Annual UfM Regional Civil Protection Progress Report within the Platform.

To summarise achievements, lessons learned, and enable Member States to integrate findings into national planning cycles.

UfM Regional Dialogue Platform.



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