

PRESS RELEASE



United Nations Development Programme

New Fire Fighting Station in Makedonska Kamenica to Improve Disaster Risk Management

Skopje, 22 March 2012

A groundbreaking ceremony to mark the start of the construction of a new fire fighting station will be held tomorrow in the municipality of Makedonska Kamenica, in the presence of representatives from the municipality, government and UNDP.

This new station, along with training and education, will help the community to successfully combat fires- a potentially serious problem given the high density of forests in the municipality's territory. It is expected that the full works will be completed by June this year, just before the beginning of summer.

In an innovative partnership, the municipality will contribute 70% of the 100,000 dollars-worth project while UNDP will provide the remaining amount.

"By co-financing disaster risk reduction activities, the municipality is helping to ensure a safer future for all its citizens. It is investing today for a safer tomorrow", UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, Alessandro Fracassetti said.

This activity is part of a three-year joint project titled 'Disaster and Climate Risk Reduction' implemented by the Crisis Management Centre and UNDP.

The project also includes a series of activities aiming to reduce vulnerabilities at local level. "In Makedonska Kamenica, vulnerability assessments have been carried out for the elementary school and the kindergarten. Training activities have been conducted and now, more than 650 students and 100 teachers are better prepared to respond to natural disasters", UNDP Project Manager Vasko Popovski said.

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the capacities of national and local authorities to better deal with disaster and climate risks.

For more information, please contact Sandra Ismanovski, at sandra.ismanovski@undp.org, (02) 3249 570 or 070 219 648.

