

January 2024

IMPLEMENTING A DISASTER LIQUIDATION MEASURE CAUSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE

– *Ghebi Village, Oni Municipality, Georgia*



In a nutshell

On April 28, 2022, the municipality of Oni, Georgia, joined the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy initiative, committing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 30% by 2030. Subsequently, the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) for Oni municipality was developed and implementation began within the community.

The objective of the implemented in Oni municipality project was to bolster the municipality's resilience against climate change-induced disasters by implementing adaptation measures and ensuring the safety of vulnerable populations. Key initiatives undertaken in 2021-2022 included the restoration and rehabilitation of the damaged road in Ghebi village, as well as the formation of the riverbed of the River Rioni and establishment of an embankment. These efforts were a direct response to the disaster that occurred in Ghebi village in May 2021.

Background

The primary objective of the CoM initiative and the municipality's overarching vision is to introduce energy-efficient measures across its territory, promoting rational energy consumption at the local level. Concurrently, it aims to enhance the municipality's resilience to climate-related disasters through targeted adaptation measures, while increasing access to sustainable and secure energy to combat energy poverty.

Oni Municipality, characterized by its high mountainous terrain, encompasses several administrative units, including Ghebi village where the aforementioned project was implemented. In May 2021, heavy rainfall triggered a disaster in Ghebi village, resulting in significant damage to residential plots, agricultural fields, and partial disruption of the road network that connects neighboring villages, posing serious threats to human lives and health.

In response to the urgent situation, the municipality swiftly mobilized resources and initiated adaptation measures to mitigate the impact of future climate-related events. These efforts included the restoration and rehabilitation of the damaged road infrastructure in Ghebi village and the establishment of protective measures along the riverbeds to prevent erosion and flooding. Additionally, community engagement and capacity-building initiatives were launched to increase awareness about disaster preparedness and sustainable energy practices among residents.

The implementation of these measures not only aimed to safeguard the local population but also to foster long-term resilience against climate change impacts. By integrating sustainable energy solutions and enhancing adaptive capacity, Oni Municipality continues to progress towards its commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable development practices across its diverse communities.

Description of the action

01

On May 18, 2021, in response to the disaster, the municipality promptly established a temporary workgroup by the mayor's directive #791. This team conducted a thorough assessment of the damage caused and formulated subsequent action plans.

02

Comprehensive documentation detailing the extent of the damage was submitted to the government of Georgia, resulting in the approval of a grant totaling 2.500.000 GEL (approximately 893.000 Euros).

03

Upon receiving the allocated funds, the municipality initiated a public tender process and subsequently awarded a contract to the selected bidder.

04

In accordance with the contractual agreement, the following measures were implemented:

- Cleaning and shaping critical sections of the Rion Riverbed over a length of 500 meters per meter;
- Construction of a reinforced concrete embankment wall spanning 1.300 meters;
- Rehabilitation of a 1.500-meter section of road.

Focus on

Protection measures from heavy rainfall include both structural and non-structural approaches. Structural measures involve constructing or retrofitting buildings with features like sloped roofs, gutters, and proper drainage systems to efficiently direct rainwater away from vulnerable areas. Building flood barriers, levees, and retaining walls can also mitigate flooding risks. Non-structural measures focus on land-use planning, zoning regulations, and environmental management practices such as preserving natural drainage systems like wetlands and forests, which help absorb excess rainfall and reduce runoff. Implementing early warning systems and educating communities about emergency preparedness are also crucial in minimizing the impacts of heavy rainfall events. Integrating both types of measures ensures comprehensive protection against the hazards associated with heavy rainfall.

Ghebi Village, Oni Municipality, Georgia



Population:

5.832

Area:

1.359,4 Km²

Signatory to the Covenant of Mayors since:

28.04.2021

CO₂ emission reduction target:

30% (2030)

Targeted sector, climate hazard(s) and vulnerable population group addressed

Target sectors to be addressed by the project are: Land Use Planning, Water, Waste, Environment & Biodiversity, and Civil Protection & Emergency.

Climate hazards to be tackled by the project are: heavy precipitations, floods, flash floods.

Vulnerable population groups to be addressed by the project are: adults, women and children, population without permanent jobs and low-paid populations and other target groups suffering most from natural disasters.

Achievement and advice for replication

The aforementioned project benefitted 2916 beneficiaries, such as the population residing in Ghebi village, as well as those living nearby Rioni river as the establishment of an embankment turned the river into a riverbed. Aside from safety, the execution of this project also reduced the municipality's yearly expenditure by 500 000 GEL.

THE PROJECT HAS REACHED SIGNIFICANT RESULTS AND OUTCOMES:

«Prompt Establishment of Response Teams». By swiftly establishing a temporary workgroup after the disaster, the municipality efficiently assessed damage and formulated action plans, demonstrating proactive disaster preparedness.



«Successful Grant Acquisition». The municipality secured a significant grant from the government of Georgia by meticulously documenting the extent of damage and presenting a well-prepared proposal.



«Comprehensive Infrastructure Improvements». Implementation of specific measures such as riverbed cleaning, embankment construction, and road rehabilitation not only repaired immediate damage but also enhanced the municipality's resilience against future climate-related disasters.



USEFUL LINKS

<https://oni.gov.ge>

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Financing the project

Financing source(s):
Government funding 2.500.000 GEL
(approximately 893.000 Euros)

Total amount:
2.500.000 GEL
(approximately 893.000 Euros)

Key figures



Monetary savings – **500.000 GEL**
(**180.000** Euros) in a year



Jobs created during the duration
of the project for **25** people



2.916 beneficiaries

CONTACT

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