

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION**

**BETWEEN**

**THE CENTER FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS  
AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (CESDRR)**

**and**

**FOCUS HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (FOCUS)  
IN TAJIKISTAN**

The Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction and FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance (FOCUS) in Tajikistan, hereinafter jointly referred to as the “Parties”,

Considering that natural disasters, accidents, and catastrophes are becoming increasingly frequent and intense and significantly hinder progress toward sustainable development;

Recognizing that the territory of the region is exposed to almost all types of natural and man-made hazards, including earthquakes, floods, landslides, mudflows, avalanches, climate anomalies, droughts, epidemics, dam failures, and releases of hazardous substances, which may trigger large-scale and transboundary disasters;

Acknowledging the possibility of large-scale and transboundary emergency situations, the consequences of which cannot always be addressed by the forces and resources of a single state;

Recognizing the importance of interaction and cooperation in planning and implementing disaster risk reduction measures, strengthening emergency preparedness and response capacity, and minimizing human and economic losses;

Recognizing the importance of effective humanitarian action to alleviate human suffering in situations of natural disasters and emergencies, as well as the protection of the rights of persons in need of assistance;

Guided by universally recognized norms and principles of international law, mutual respect, and equal partnership;

Expressing their intention to cooperate and interact,

have agreed as follows:

**ARTICLE 1**

The purpose of this Memorandum is to establish interaction and cooperation between the Parties based on equality and mutual benefit, to enhance the effectiveness of their activities in the field of disaster risk reduction and emergency situations, and to implement activities of mutual interest in practice.

The main objectives of interaction and cooperation are to consolidate efforts and, based on the capacities of the organizations, to plan and implement effective measures aimed at increasing the safety of populations and territories of the states of the region through the improvement of organizational and legal frameworks, institutional foundations, mechanisms, strategies, policies, and practices of disaster and emergency risk management at local, national, and regional levels.

## ARTICLE 2

Subject to the availability of funds and resources of the Parties, the following forms of cooperation may be carried out under this Memorandum:

- joint planning and implementation of activities related to programs and projects in the field of disaster risk reduction and emergency situations;
- joint actions to support central and local authorities and local communities in strengthening emergency management capacity and enhancing disaster resilience;
- assistance in implementing measures to increase the resilience of vulnerable communities to natural disasters and to strengthen the capacity of structures engaged in disaster risk management at regional, national, and local levels to ensure a safer and more inclusive environment;
- joint planning and conduct of working meetings, specialized trainings, training courses, and other activities aimed at capacity-building, exchange of experience, and implementation of best practices in disaster prevention, response, and risk reduction;
- development of dialogue and partnerships, and maintenance of working contacts with international and non-governmental organizations and scientific institutions engaged in disaster risk reduction and emergency management;
- assistance in the development, improvement, and unification of modern information and communication systems for data collection, processing, and analysis;

- assistance in improving and implementing methodological and guidance materials, unified terminology, and standardized formats;
- assistance in the establishment and development of crisis management centers, monitoring and early warning systems, information databases, and in improving systems for receiving, collecting, processing, storing, protecting, analyzing, and exchanging information;
- other forms of cooperation of mutual interest that may be agreed upon by the Parties.

### ARTICLE 3

Any amendments and/or changes to this Memorandum shall require the written consent of the Parties and shall be attached to this document.

### ARTICLE 4

Either Party reserves the right to terminate this Memorandum early at any time, with or without cause, by providing written notice to the other Party at least ninety (90) days prior to the termination date.

If, at the time of termination of this Memorandum, activities under any program implemented pursuant to an additional memorandum forming an integral part of this Memorandum are ongoing, such activities shall be completed regardless of the termination date. The Parties shall make every effort to complete the program.

### ARTICLE 5

This Memorandum shall enter into force upon signature and shall remain valid for a period of five (5) years. Upon expiration, it shall be automatically extended for an additional five-year period unless the Parties decide otherwise. This Memorandum may be amended or supplemented by mutual consent of the Parties.

This Memorandum does not create any legal or financial obligations with respect to joint activities. No actions undertaken under this Memorandum shall infringe upon the rights or authorities of either Party.

This Memorandum is executed in two originals in the English language, one for each Party.

This Memorandum was signed by both Parties in the city of Almaty on 27 February 2018.

Director  
Center for Emergency Situations and  
Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR)  
Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan

Valery Petrov

Executive Director  
FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance in  
Tajikistan

Hadi Khusani