Black Sea Eco Academy involves local communities in activities aimed at the mitigation of disaster risks

The Black Sea Eco Academy is involved in a project aiming to increase resilience and reduce vulnerability of local communities and institutions through support to strategies that enable them to prepare for, mitigate and respond to natural disasters. It is supporting 22 communities to develop their resilience through an institutionalized community based model, promoted within district and national disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategic development in Adjara, Georgia.

The project will help local communities learn about risks and establish a culture of safety and resilience and skills in DRR initiatives, develop district plans and establish coordination mechanisms with communities and strengthen community based disaster risk reduction initiatives; and also strengthened disaster risk reduction strategies through increased dialogue, coordination, and information exchange between regional, national and local stakeholders.

Activities of the project are strongly focused on involvement of communities. They include education and public awareness: provide trainings for 40 teachers develop curriculum and education materials and plan and simulate evacuation plans in 47 schools, public awareness strategy including social networking; small-scale, low cost demonstrative mitigation projects through locally managed small grants; establishing or strengthening 3 District Emergency Groups, and testing of competency of all Emergency Groups through trainings and provision of equipment and simulations; development of electronic database for 3 districts to capture community based hazard mapping and emergency plans, facilitating institutionalizing linkages and coordination; lobbying and advocacy for model replication and incorporation in development plans.

The project 'Participatory multi-hazard disaster risk reduction' in Adjara, Georgia is financed by DIPECHO, Implemented by Oxfam GB in partnership with Black Sea Eco Academy.