

# Bulgaria



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## SYMPOSIUM NOTES



In the second half of 2003 Bulgarian Red Cross Youth implemented a project related to transfer of knowledge and skills and awareness raising about ways of reducing disaster risk under the name 'Risk Reduction Through First Aid Capacity Building of Youth Emergency Teams'

The project was initially planned to be implemented in 14 out of the 28 administrative regions of Bulgaria, in which exist the so-called Youth Emergency Teams

The Youth Emergency Teams (YET) are voluntary teams of young people (aged between 16 and 25), members of the Bulgarian Red Cross Youth, which are active on the territory of particular administrative regions of the country. They have some supportive functions, related to disaster response, but their main tasks are in disaster preparedness. The Youth Emergency Teams (which became 17 in the course of the project) disseminate materials, related to disaster risk among the population, they carry out lectures and field drills in schools and different public or business organizations.

The idea behind the project was that by building the capacity of the existing Youth Emergency Teams in Bulgaria in the field of first aid, their work within their local communities will become more efficient and they could take a leading role in risk sharing. This was planned to be done by demonstrating the importance of first aid as primary step in reducing risk in emergencies and by training people in delivering first aid.

At the beginning of the project was established a team of advanced members of YET, whose role was to build the capacity of the others in the field of first aid. In July 2003 the team took part in the largest first aid competition in Europe – the First Aid Convention of Europe (FACE) – in Prague, the Czech Republic. This was the first occasion for the last few years that a Bulgarian youth team was able to participate in FACE and it was used by the project team for obtaining the latest standards in first aid. At FACE the team checked its level of training and got 11th position among all the 26 teams presented in the competition.

In the following months the team started carrying out subsequently one-day trainings of each the YETs from the different parts of the country. Because of the limited time and some budget considerations, the

team was divided into sub-groups of 2 trainers each. On a rotating principle each couple of trainers travelled to several different destinations to work with the YETs based there.

Meanwhile 3 new YETs were established in the towns of Ruse, Montana and Targovishte. This was an evidence for strengthening of the YET network to which the project contributed to a large extent.

### ***Project links between poverty and disaster risk reduction in developing countries***

The project we implemented is not directly concerned with the issue of poverty, though there is a certain link between the process of social transition in Bulgaria as a post-communist country (one of which marks is poverty) and the disaster risk reduction. As the state is experiencing a difficult period, the government's efforts are directed at meeting mainly the primary needs of the population. Unfortunately, disaster risk sharing is not among them and especially in the small communities people lack information and skills, which would help for reducing the disaster risk.

Through the current project, Bulgarian Red Cross Youth concentrated particularly on small communities, disseminating information and training particular groups of the population (mainly youth) in first aid skills.

Although the project could not fill in the gap in the population's knowledge, related to disaster risk reduction and first aid, it demonstrated a good practice in disaster transfer, through a voluntary-based approach.

### ***Project sustainability***

The project is based on the work of 17 voluntary teams of young people, who are disseminating knowledge and skills, related to disaster risk reduction among the population. Through the first six months the capacity of these youth emergency teams was build up, so that they can continue doing their important work within the communities.

Even though these structures already exist and there is no need that funds are allocated for developing such, they still need proper equipment and funds for covering their subsistence costs.

### ***Project ownership among a broad community and institutional base***

The project is recognized by the Bulgarian Red Cross as an important activity in the field of disaster preparedness.

Currently, within the Bulgarian Red Cross, the Youth Emergency Teams are the only functional structure, engaged in disaster risk sharing, through direct work with the population.

### ***Components of learning***

The project as a whole is based on the concept of learning by doing. People are trained in practical skills for delivering first aid in case of disaster, which could prevent or reduce the disaster risk.

The success of the learning process is ensured through, training in small groups, taken at the same format at which they exist naturally in the community. This helps for strengthening the relations within the communities and developing feelings of mutual trust and belongingness.

## **LESSONS LEARNED**

After receiving their first aid training, the YETs had to put the lessons learnt into practice. Each of the YET developed an action plan for work within the local community for building its capacity for disaster risk reduction.

In each of the project regions were carried out exercises in schools, based on an agreement with the Ministry of education and Science in Bulgaria that Red Cross youth volunteer have access to each public school in the country. Till December 2003 in the

events, related to first aid, participated approximately 1600 secondary school students in all the project regions.

The First Aid Day, 13th of September 2003, was used for raising the awareness of the local communities in the project regions about disaster risk reduction and first aid measurements in cases of small-scale disasters or accidents.

In 7 towns were organized in the open simulations of first aid measurements in case of emergency.

We estimate the direct beneficiaries from the project to be about 1700 people, who attended the different public events (different than those who were reached in the schools).

The project had an impact on the standardization of the concept (and the practice) of first aid in Bulgaria.

In September 2003 Bulgarian Red Cross issued a first aid manual for the public. The project team was invited to take part in the in the editorial work on the manual and contributed a lot for its successful finalization.

Members of the team also participated in their role of advanced first aid trainers in a training film for first aid, produced after the manual, which will be disseminated for free among the population

The project implemented by the Bulgarian Red Cross Youth team played a significant role in the field of disaster preparedness in Bulgaria. It was particularly valuable because of the community based work which was done, which is a new approach for our country.

## THE SIXTY-FIVE RESEARCH GRANTS

For the ProVention program, Applied Research Grants for Disaster Risk Reduction, there were sixty-five proposals selected to receive grants of up to US\$5,000. The projects were. Arranged by country, here are those projects (completed between June 2003 and January 2004) with contact information for the Team Leader, a listing of team members, and advisors.

Argentina	Georgia	Senegal
Armenia	India	South Africa
Bangladesh	Indonesia	Sudan
Barbados	Kenya	Tajikistan
Bhutan	Mexico	Turkey
Bulgaria	Nepal	Uzbekistan
China	Nigeria	Venezuela
Colombia	Pakistan	Vietnam
Costa Rica	Philippines	Zimbabwe

### SYMPOSIUM NOTES

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## ARGENTINA



### TEAM LEADER

Pablo Suarez <suarez@bu.edu>

### PROJECT TITLE

Reducing vulnerability to climate variability and change: cognitive and behavioral obstacles to rational use of information

### PROJECT ADVISOR

William P. Anderson



### TEAM LEADER

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### PROJECT TITLE

Study of the awareness of Earthquake risk in the population of Mendoza

### PROJECT ADVISOR

Engels German Cortés Turjillo

### TEAM MEMBERS

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Andres Martina Cervan



## ARMENIA



### TEAM LEADER

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### PROJECT TITLE

New methodology for seismic microzonation of the cities at the highest risk

### PROJECT ADVISORS

Hector Babayan  
Avetis Arakelyan

### TEAM MEMBERS

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Mrs. Lilit Asatryan      Mr. Artak Simonyan



### TEAM LEADER

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### PROJECT TITLE

The main principles of earthquake early warning system creation around critical facilities in seismic active zones

### PROJECT ADVISORS

Dr. Valery Arzumanyan  
Dr. Zaven Khlgatyan

### TEAM MEMBERS

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**PROJECT TITLE**

Preliminary vulnerability assessment method of residential stone buildings

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**PROJECT ADVISOR**

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**TEAM LEADER**

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**PROJECT TITLE**

Reducing vulnerability to floods in southwest border districts of Bangladesh

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**PROJECT ADVISORS**

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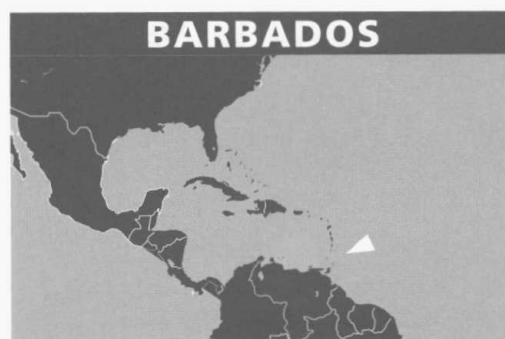
**PROJECT TITLE**

Technological & chemical hazards and the risk of bulk transportation of dangerous goods along the ship-breaking yard of Chittagong, the port and adjacent area: a qualitative analysis of the combination of risk factors

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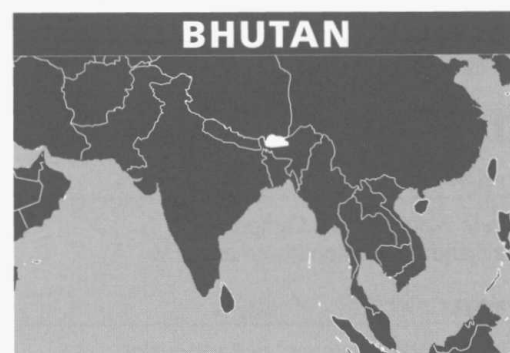
**PROJECT TITLE**

Community risk management

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**PROJECT ADVISOR**

Miss Judy Thomas



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**TEAM LEADER**

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**PROJECT TITLE**

Demonstration to the Bhutan building industry: Better safety of life and cost saving by avoiding un-reinforced brick infill in RCC frames designed for seismic attack

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**PROJECT ADVISOR**

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#### TEAM LEADER

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#### PROJECT TITLE

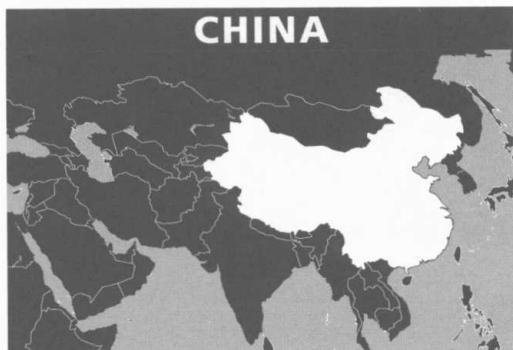
Risk reduction through first aid capacity building of youth emergency teams

#### PROJECT ADVISOR

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#### PROJECT TITLE

Vulnerability of a community's structures, people and property based on flood risk assessment

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#### PROJECT TITLE

The disaster awareness and risk management of flooded Yangtze River: A case study of 1998 Dyke Burst in Jiujiang

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#### PROJECT TITLE

Near source strong ground motion estimation

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#### PROJECT TITLE

Social-forestry based disaster preparedness and management in rural community of Menkong Catchment, Yunnan Province, Southwest China

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#### PROJECT TITLE

Expert system for post earthquake building damage evaluation and massive risk occupancy

#### PROJECT ADVISOR

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#### PROJECT TITLE

Risk identification and reduction in NW Costa Rica: Soil liquefaction at Nicoya Peninsula and volcanic vulnerability at Arenal volcano

#### PROJECT ADVISORS

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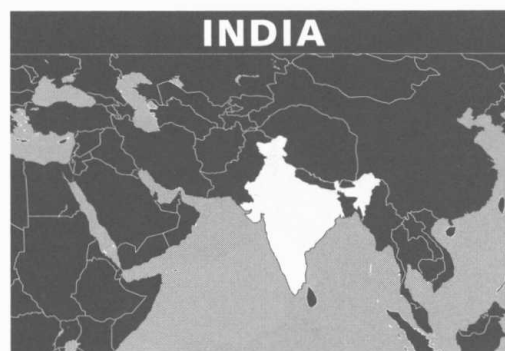
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#### PROJECT TITLE

Research on establishment of general concept on interaction of different disaster data

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#### PROJECT TITLE

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**PROJECT TITLE**

Urban multiple disaster scenario and decision making system for vulnerable area of Madhya Pradesh, India

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**PROJECT TITLE**

Indicators for disaster preparedness

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**PROJECT TITLE**

Environmental monitoring of pesticide residues and heavy metals in and around Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, India

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**PROJECT TITLE**

Action advocacy to ensure right to livelihood risk reduction and beyond

**PROJECT ADVISOR**

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**PROJECT TITLE**

Organisational learning for community based disaster risk reduction: lessons from Disaster Mitigation Institute.

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**PROJECT TITLE**

Testing communication strategies for industrial disaster risk reduction

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**PROJECT TITLE**

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#### PROJECT TITLE

Institutionalising Innovative Local Practices and Partnerships for risk reduction in earthquake-prone settlements of the poor: A case study in Porbandar District, Gujarat, India

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#### PROJECT TITLE

Developing & disseminating a model of community-based, disaster-mitigating developmental planning

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#### PROJECT TITLE

Community based advanced risk sharing programme

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#### PROJECT TITLE

Planning for risk reduction through sustainable siting of embankments in the Sundarbans

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#### PROJECT TITLE

Improving the methodology for assessing natural hazard impacts

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#### PROJECT TITLE

Post disaster risk identification: A case of rehabilitation process of rural Kutch in Gujarat, India

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Critical Study into the government policies on disaster management in India

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#### PROJECT TITLE

Hazard resistant health delivery system

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