

Progress achieved by Kyrgyzstan under in strengthening industrial safety and preventing accidental pollution from tailings facilities at the national and regional levels

Subregional workshop on mine tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution in Central Asia

25-26 May 2023, Dushanbe, Tajikistan and online



NATURAL DISASTERS AND RISKS OF MAN-MADE/INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN KYRGYZSTAN

In Kyrgyzstan, as in other mountainous regions of the world, dangerous natural processes are actively developing, natural disasters occur, and the life of the population is associated with risk.

At the same time, Kyrgyzstan hosts a significant number of industrial facilities that handle hazardous chemicals, including those in the oil and gas, mining, textile and agricultural industries.

With improper handling of hazardous substances and inadequate management of relevant risks at hazardous facilities, given the ever-increasing risk of natural disasters, this can lead to large-scale man-made accidents and provoke accidental air, water and soil pollution, undermining the security of the population and territory of Kyrgyzstan. Hazardous activities may jeopardize not only the protection of Kyrgyzstan, but the entire region and have a transboundary impact.



ANALYSIS OF CURRENT SITUATION

A systematic definition of the problems of disaster risk management in the country and the main directions/actions for their solution are set out in the "Concept for the comprehensive protection of the population and territories of the Kyrgyz Republic from emergencies for 2018-2030" /hereinafter the Concept for DRR/. This document is based on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

At the same time, among the actions to solve the tasks of the DRR Concept related to the prevention of the risks of man-made/industrial accidents and related disasters, there are no measures to prevent and respond to transboundary ones.

Unified state policy in the field of DRR until 2030

Sustainable Development Goals
2015 -2030

National Development Program of the country
2022-2026

Сендайская рамочная программа
по снижению риска бедствий на
2015–2030 гг.

The concept of
comprehensive protection of
the population and territory
of the Kyrgyz Republic from
emergencies 2018-2030

Action plan of the
Concept for stage 2 - 2023-
2026

ПАИК сектор ЧС
2022-2027 годы



Recommendations of the CADRI partnership - 2023-2030



EFSR ROADMAP 2021-2030

INITIATIVES TO ACCOUNT THE RISKS OF MAN-MADE/INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN THE NATIONAL DOCUMENTS ON DRR IN KYRGYZSTAN

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) are jointly implementing an initiative to “Integrate Human/Industrial Accident Risk into National DRR Strategies and Plans” under an initiative for Central Asia funded by the European Union, which has been implemented since 2019 by UNISDR.

The purpose of this initiative is **to support Kyrgyzstan in the issue of strengthening the risk management of man-made / industrial accidents, including in a transboundary context**, taking into account natural hazards and risks also associated with climate change. This goal can be achieved by introducing the above aspects into the documents aimed at implementing the Concept of comprehensive protection of the population and territory of the Kyrgyz Republic in emergency situations for 2018-2030, such as, for example, in the Action Plan for the implementation of this (stage II - 2023- 2026).

In addition, this initiative will strengthen the capacity of Kyrgyzstan and progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.



Recommendations on integration of industrial accidents risks into the Action Plan of the Concept of Comprehensive Emergency Protection of the Population and Territory of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018-2030 (Stage II - 2023-2026)

In order to improve the policy and legal framework, as well as mechanisms for coordination and delineation of powers to manage and minimise risks of technological/industrial accidents, including Natech, and related disasters, the following should be done:

- a) Integrate technological disaster risk reduction, risks of natural hazards triggering technological disasters (Natech risks) and transboundary considerations into the Concept of Comprehensive Protection of the Population and Territory of the Kyrgyz Republic in emergency situations for 2018 – 2030 and related policies and action plans
- b) Ensure that all relevant authorities, at the national and local levels, are informed of and duly implement the Comprehensive Protection of the Population and Territory of the Kyrgyz Republic in emergency situations for 2018 – 2030 and the present recommendations;
- c) Improve coordination and cooperation amongst the national authorities involved in disaster risk reduction (natural and technological), industrial safety, water management, climate change adaptation and other relevant areas, including through regular exchanges information and knowledge and harmonization of policies
- d) Conduct an inventory and assessment of legal acts and policies in the sphere of industrial safety, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, and ensure their full alignment with the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention)
- e) Identify key participants and responsibilities for managing and minimising risks of technological/industrial accidents, Natech events and related disasters;
- f) Coordinate with other authorities in the preparation of Kyrgyzstan's national implementation reports for the Industrial Accidents Convention, including for the next reporting round (2019-2022) due by the end of October 2023 and beyond, using the reporting template provided by the UNECE secretariat;
- g) Develop an appropriate mechanism for identification of hazardous activities (referred hereinafter to as HAs) and classification of production facilities that fall under the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents;
- h) Develop a list of hazardous substances and categories of hazardous substances(including tailings management facilities), as well as procedures for collecting the necessary data to identify HAs, taking into account the criteria for classifying hazardous industrial facilities (HIFs) as facilities that can lead to transboundary impacts, with a list of indicators to be collected;
- i) Develop an information system and map designed to maintain a register of hazardous production facilities, to process and record results of control and supervision activities;
- j) Enhance understandings of Natech risks and the risks of the adverse impacts of climate change on hazardous installations and their management at all levels of governance.



Recommendations on integration of industrial accidents risks into the Action Plan of the Concept of Comprehensive Emergency Protection of the Population and Territory of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018-2030 (Stage II - 2023-2026) (Continuation)

In order to develop a mechanism for transboundary consultations and cooperation on hazardous activities, including from TMFs, the following should be done:

- a) Notify potentially affected countries of existing and planned hazardous activities with potential transboundary effects, including, among others, at TMFs, uranium impoundments and sites with Natech risks, using the Industrial Accidents Convention's notification template;
- b) Develop agreements with neighbouring or riparian countries that define mechanisms for sharing information with supporting organisations (example Center for Emergency Management and Disaster Risk Reduction) to facilitate preparedness, early warning, emergency response to technological/industrial accidents and Natech events;
- c) Regularly participate in information and knowledge exchanges on industrial safety, TMF safety and Natech risk management with other countries and through activities of regional and international organizations.
- d) Ensure engagement of all relevant stakeholders (local authorities,) in transboundary consultations and cooperation.

In order to maintain satisfactory environmental and industrial control, reduce the risk of industrial pollution and minimise risks of technological/industrial accidents, including Natech, the following should be done:

- a) Develop Strategies and Action Programs for necessary modernisation, automation and improvement of environmental monitoring networks in accordance with international principles and best practices.
- b) Regular state inspection control over the activities of HIFs is carried out in terms of compliance of its activities with the requirements of industrial and environmental safety in accordance with the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Industrial Safety of Hazardous Production Facilities" and
- c) Decree of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic dated November 6, 2007 No. 533 "On the procedure for conducting inspections of business entities and determining the list of authorized bodies entitled to conduct inspections of business entities".



Recommendations on integration of industrial accidents risks into the Action Plan of the Concept of Comprehensive Emergency Protection of the Population and Territory of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018-2030 (Stage II - 2023-2026) (Continuation)

In order to improve the mechanism of preparedness and response to accidents at HAs, it is necessary to:

- a) Develop rules and procedures providing for a clear action planning system, including an algorithm for developing internal (site) action plans in the case of an incident, external emergency response plans in the case when an emergency is likely to go beyond the industrial site, as well as transboundary plans for interaction in the case of risks of spreading the consequences of an accident to the territory of another state;
- b) Approve the “Checklist for contingency planning in the case of accidents affecting transboundary waters” at the legislative level.
- c) Develop and update, in cooperation with counterparts in neighbouring and riparian countries, joint contingency plans, internal/external plans and responses for industrial accidents and Natech events with transboundary effects, and regularly test the plans with operators, first responders and affected communities, as well as their counterparts in neighbouring and riparian countries that may be impacted;
- d) Ensure the use of the UNECE Industrial Accident Notification (IAN) System, including by ensuring the information on the Kyrgyz Republic’s point of contact for industrial accident notification is kept up to date, improving the mechanism for sending (and receiving) notifications, participating in IAN System tests (i.e. sub-regional tests and the UNECE biennial consultations with the points of contacts) and incorporating it into the Unified Emergency and Crisis Information and Control System of the Kyrgyz Republic, which is designed to automate operations of governing bodies of the State Civil Protection System.



Recommendations on integration of industrial accidents risks into the Action Plan of the Concept of Comprehensive Emergency Protection of the Population and Territory of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018-2030 (Stage II - 2023-2026) (Continuation)

In order to prevent and minimise risks of industrial accidents, including Natech, it is necessary to:

- a) Develop and approve the Procedure for assessing risks of industrial accidents and Natech events, including for people and the environment, and procedures that provide for initiation and rapid implementation of the necessary measures by operators and competent authorities in cases where signs of accidents or their imminent threat are identified;
- b) Regularly update TMFs that pose high risks for accidental water pollution, including through the application of the TMF Methodology (i.e. Tailings Hazard Index, Tailings Risk Index and Checklist Methodology) and, based on the risks identified, apply mitigation measures (as per the TMF Methodology's Measure Catalogue);
- c) Support activities to identify and map TMFs in transboundary river basins, and take measures to prevent accidental water pollution, including through the update or development of joint contingency plans;
- d) Use the results of risk assessments and the TMF methodology to inform land-use plans and decision-making on the siting of hazardous activities (and nearby developments) and to identify hotspots that need priority action to prevent, prepare or and respond to possible industrial accidents and Natech events;
- e) Develop Action Plans for localisation and elimination of consequences of accidents within and outside industrial sites and mechanisms for their introduction into existing emergency response plans in cooperation with neighbouring and riparian countries.



Recommendations on integration of industrial accidents risks into the Action Plan of the Concept of Comprehensive Emergency Protection of the Population and Territory of the Kyrgyz Republic for 2018-2030 (Stage II - 2023-2026) (Continuation)

In order to improve the mechanism of access to environmental information and to strengthen reporting on environmental issues, the following should be done:

- a) Develop mechanisms and procedures for active dissemination of environmental information and for public involvement, establishing procedures for participation of the public, which may be affected by an accident, in decision-making in order to express their views and concerns regarding measures to prevent accidents, including transboundary accidents, and to ensure preparedness for them ;
- b) Ensure contingency plans for industrial accidents and Natech events are made aware to and tested with communities that could be affected, including in neighbouring and riparian countries.
- c) Ensure that people of all ages and genders who could be affected by an industrial accident are informed of existing risks in relation to hazardous activities and are promptly provided with information on the potential health effects in case of an accident and the measures to be taken to prevent or mitigate any damage to their health and the environment



THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION

Daurbek SAKYEV

Department of Monitoring and
Forecasting Emergency Situations
Ministry of Emergency Situations of
the Kyrgyz Republic

E-mail: daur_sakyev@mail.ru

Tel.: +996 770 556360

