

Benefits, achievements and lessons learnt of the IIWGs in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan

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Project on strengthening tailings safety in Uzbekistan



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Key Activities

Establishment of an inter-institutional working on tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution, including the conduct of an initial meeting



On-site training in Uzbekistan (with participation of other Central Asian countries) to apply the UNECE Safety guidelines and good practices for tailings management facilities and



Sharing experience with other Central Asian countries (notably in the Syr Darya river basin)

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Project on strengthening tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution in Uzbekistan and beyond in Central Asia



The project is being implemented with the financial support of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment.



Previous Accidents



2000
Baia Mare (Romania):
overflow of TMF



2019
Krasnoyarsk (Russia):
dam break after heavy
rainfall



2014
Stolice (Serbia):
landslide damaging
TMF



2019
Brumadinho (Brazil):
TMF storage failure
killed 259 people and 5
miles of destruction

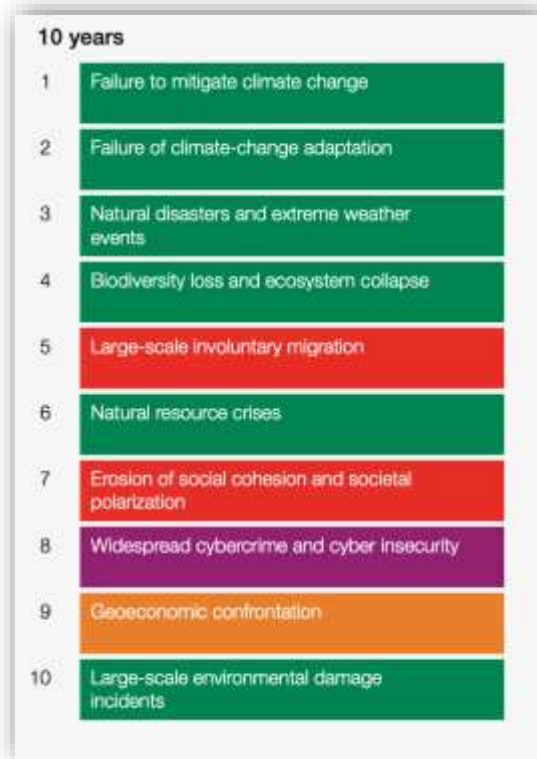


2016
Ridder (Kazakhstan):
mine tailings spilled in
rivers causing accidental
water pollution

Risks

Consequences are getting more severe. Failures result in higher numbers of fatalities, increased amounts of released waste and more widespread effects.

Global risks ranked by severity over long term*



Risk categories: Economic, Environmental, Geopolitical, Societal, Technological

*Source: World Economic Forum Global Risks Perception Survey 2022-2023.

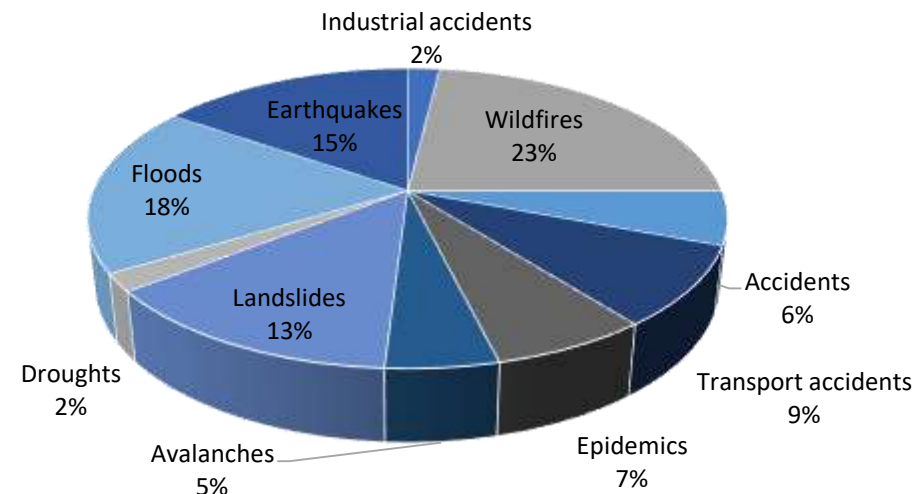
**Source: Regional disaster risk profile of Central Asian countries, 2021

- **Significant risks of transboundary impacts** of industrial accidents and water pollution
- 59 out of 237 TMFs in Central Asia **may have potential transboundary effects (25%)**
- Central Asian countries are **highly vulnerable to natural and hazardous events** (drought, floods, landslides or earthquakes) → can trigger Natech events
- **Vulnerability of people and infrastructure** to Natech accidents

TMF Failures can:

- release tsunami-like wave of mine waste
- harm/risk human health, infrastructure, biodiversity and natural resources and neighboring countries
- Accidental water pollution and environmental degradation of transboundary watercourses/lakes

Percentage distribution of registered disasters in CA region**



IIWGs – What they are and why they are useful



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Inter-Institutional Working Group on Tailings Safety and the Prevention of Accidental Water Pollution

What they are

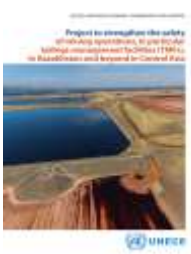
- Aim to enhance tailings governance, prevent accidental water pollution and address existing legislative and administrative gaps
- Platform for cooperation and policy dialogue, exchange of knowledge and good practices (e.g. UNECE Safety Guidelines and TMF Methodology) among competent authorities, operators, academia, NGOs and other stakeholders
- Formally established by Kazakhstan and Tajikistan in 2022 under UNECE projects with financial support from Switzerland; discussions ongoing for an IIWG in Uzbekistan



Key Results:

- Better coordination, inclusive governance and decision-making and transparent policy
- Increased resilience of TMFs operators
- Improved understanding of TMFs safety, existing tools and instruments
- Harmonization of policy and legislation
- Higher awareness of TMFs hazards and related disaster risks, incl. Natech
- Strengthened outreach and partnership with other international organizations, industry, NGOs and academia
- Enhanced transboundary cooperation and exchange of the information

Kazakhstan Approach



- Currently the only Party to the Convention from Central Asia (since 2001)
 - And is a beneficiary of its Assistance and Cooperation Programme
- IIWG was officially established in January 2022 by the order of the Ministry of Emergency Situations
 - Bringing together representatives of different national authorities, operators, international organizations, NGOs, and academia.
- Kazakhstan is most advanced in the region for progress in the prevention of industrial accidents

Pilot project on the safety of TMFs

2017-2019

2020-2021

First Meeting of the IIWG

2022

2023

Project on National Policy Dialogues

Second Meeting of the IIWG



IIWG Meetings Kazakhstan



1st Meeting (February 2022)

- Inaugural meeting and beginning of work
- Introduction of the workplan
- Key outcomes
 - Lead the organization of consultations with UNECE to establish National Dialogues on Industrial Safety
 - Enhance transboundary cooperation and joint planning with neighboring countries
 - Continue strengthening implementation of the Industrial Accidents Convention and to reducing risks associated with TMFs failures and accidental water pollution.
 - Updating the actions plans under the Convention, reviewing and maintaining its TMFs inventory and map, and the identification of possible topics for a study.

2nd Meeting (March 2023)

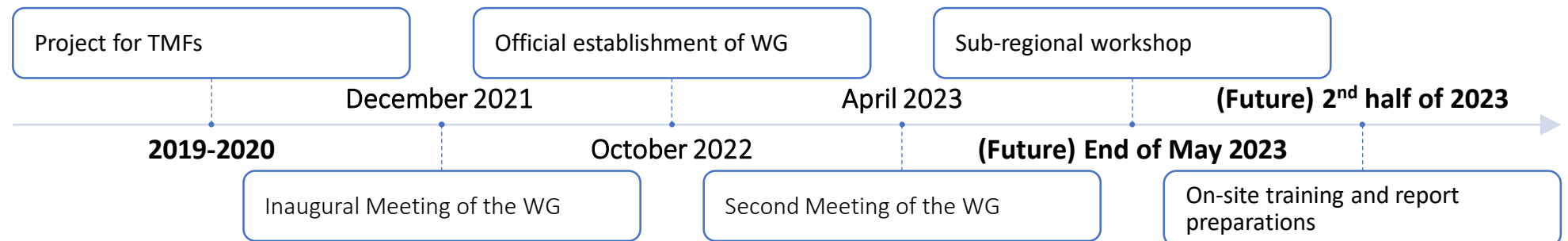
- More than 60 participants including High-Level awareness/attendance from Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Emergency Situations and the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as operators, scientific institutions, international and NGOs.
- Reviewed results of project Syr Darya river (Phase I)
- Considered the “Road map for action to strengthen mine tailings safety within and beyond the UNECE region”
- Key Outcomes
 - Work towards the development of its workplan for 2023
 - Strengthen mine tailings safety and reduce the risk of accidental water pollution by national authorities
 - Agreed on continuing work in Syr Darya river project – by developing a Joint Contingency Plan



Tajikistan Approach



- Signed a High-Level Declaration in 2005
- Beneficiary of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme
 - Receives support in the form of project activities, trainings, seminars, reports and recommendations, exchange of information and experience
- IIWG officially established in October 2022 by an order of the Deputy Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan



Progress in Tajikistan



• 1st Meeting (December 2021)

- Inaugural meeting of the IIWG and beginning of work
- Representatives of the following institutions came together:
 - Service of the State Supervision over the Safe Conduct of Work in Industry and Mining Supervision, Committee of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence, Ministry of Industry and New Technologies, Ministry of Energy and Water Resources and Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Took stock of available information, discussed challenges
- Key outcomes
 - IIWG to meet on a needs-driven basis to work on reviewing/updating legislation and policies, discuss good practices, review action plans and more.

• 2nd Meeting (April 2023)

- More than 40 stakeholders in attendance
 - State authorities (ministry of Energy and Water Resources), industrial enterprises, academia, IOs and NGOs.
- Review of current issues and measure taken in reduction of risks, exchange of good practices and review of benefits of accession
- Key outcomes
 - Further work for the Working Group were developed
 - Proposal to invite various stakeholders to IIWG meetings
 - Need for early warning systems and increased transboundary cooperation
 - Proposal for the Government to accede to the Convention in the work plan for 2023

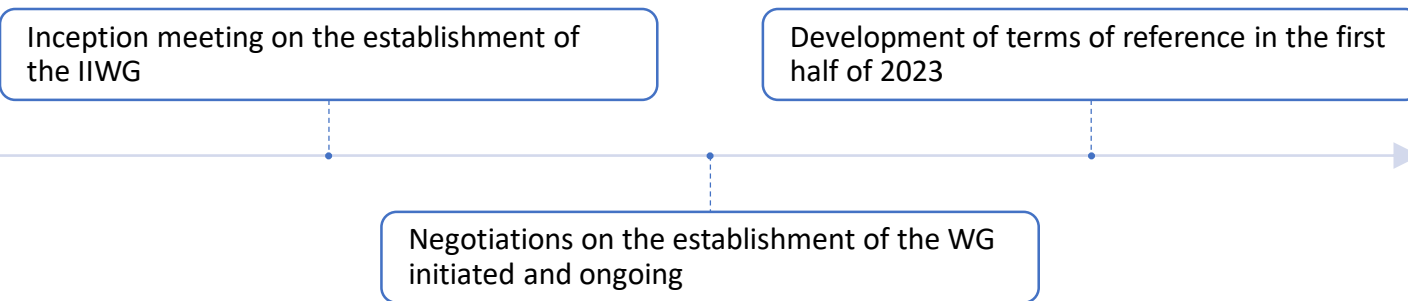
Proposed Next Steps

- October 2023 – submit report for the 10th round of reporting on the implementation of the Convention
- 2023 - Consider accession to the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention
- Identification and notification of neighbouring countries
- Third meeting planned for first quarter of 2024

Uzbekistan



- Signed a High-Level Declaration in 2005
 - Therefore working towards accession
- Beneficiary of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme
 - Receives support in the form of project activities, trainings, seminars, reports and recommendations, exchange of information and experience
- Continuing work in this area would enable Uzbekistan to progress towards the Convention's implementation
 - and eventual accession in line with the Decree of the Uzbek President "On approval of the concept of environmental protection of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030".



UNECE Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

- Designed to protect people and the environment from Industrial accidents (prevention, preparedness, and response)
- 42 Parties
- Accidents regulated: hazardous activity, with transboundary implications, tailings, NATECH



Benefits of joining the Convention

- Strengthens the capacity to prevent and respond to industrial accidents; as well as manage risks associated with NATECH
- Strengthen cross-border cooperation in key sectors
- Uzbekistan can actively shape the work of the Convention
- Uzbekistan can participate in decision-making by the Parties

Lessons learned



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- Work towards higher level awareness of the IIWG among the relevant stakeholders
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- Engage more stakeholders – relevant authorities, operators, academia, NGOs, etc.
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- Have few(er) actions in the workplan
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- Need of the international organization’s support in the beginning – but the national ownership afterwards
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- Trust building between the government and operators
-
- Regular IIWG meetings and strong engagement of the national authorities

Thank you for your attention!
Questions?