

U.N. IN ACTION

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UN PROJECT AIMS TO PREVENT LOSS OF LIFE WHEN NATURAL DISASTERS STRIKE

<u>VIDEO</u> <u>AUDIO</u>

NARRATION

PEOPLE Being prepared is the key to survive a natural

disaster. But how prepared are the inhabitants of

Almaty, Kazakhstan's main city, in case a major

disaster strikes? (10")

<u>VOX POPS</u>: (In Russian)

TEENAGE BOYS/GIRLS

VOX POPS

"You have to dress fast, have everything ready and it's better that you live on the first floor";

"Don't panic";

"I couldn't care less";

"I don't believe that anything too serious can

happen";

"I am not scared of earthquakes because when my mom was giving birth to me there was an

earthquake ..."

(21.3")

NARRATION

INTRO TO ANATOLY LEE

The truth is that experts believe that a big earthquake will strike Almaty region within the next 15 years. Anatoly Lee is a geophysicist with Kazakhstan's Seismological Institute. (10.6")

LEE ON-CAMERA

ANATOLY LEE: (In Russian)

"The south and south-eastern parts of Kazakhstan are the most earthquake-prone

zones in the country." [CUTAWAY]

"We are now going through a seismic-active period and the probability of the occurrence of a

magnitude 8 and above is quite high."

(14.3")

<u>NARRATION</u>

SEISMOLOGICAL OFFICE

Large seismic activity tends to occur here every 80 to 100 years. Almaty is located in an area of extensive geological risk, being subjected to both earthquakes and mudslides. The city area is crossed by five tectonic faults where earthquakes may score ten.

(16.2")

PHOTOS/DESTRUCTION

CDs – VARIOUS PHOTOS

In1997, the city of Astana became the country's capital. One of the reasons for the move from Almaty was the city's geological instability. Major earthquakes hit Almaty in 1887 and 1911 causing the destruction of the city.

(14")

TESTING BUILDING FOR EARTHQUAKES

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

This is not the real thing... The Vek Corporation, one of the country's largest construction companies, test the earthquake resistance of their buildings. They claim that their structures will stand a magnitude nine earthquake. Their motto is, "our house is your fortress." But not all the houses here are fortresses.

(18.3")

BUILDINGS MODERN AND OLD

Nearly the entire private sector of the housing stock was built in disregard of the norms of

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ABAKANOV INTRO

seismic resistant construction. Experts believe that only thirty percent of residential buildings can sustain an earthquake with a seismicity of nine. Loss of life could be enormous. Abakanov Tanatkan is a professor of earthquake engineering.

(20")

ABAKANOV TANAKTAN: (In Russian)

ABAKANOV ON-CAMERA

"According to our calculations, in case of a strong earthquake in Almaty, there could be up to 150,000 victims."

(7.4")

NARRATION

THEATRE PERFORMANCE

UNDP, the UN Development Programme, is sponsoring a project aimed at teaching people to participate in early warning and being ready in case a major natural disaster strikes. Theatre performance is used to convey messages of preparedness, awareness and mobilization. The project's target audience are young Kazaks. (18.7")

CHILDREN WATCH FILM

For the younger set, UNDP produced an animated film so that little ones understand what needs to be done if and when an earthquake occurs. The film is careful not to frighten the children and encourages them to talk to their parents about the dangers posed by natural disasters. After the screening an educator discusses with the kids the cartoon's main messages – prevention and preparedness.

(22.3")

CHILDREN: (In Russian)

CHILDREN SPEAK ON-CAMERA

"I didn't know that I had to have my documents with me";

"To hide under the table";

"First-aid kit, water and warm clothes".

(9")

NARRATION

UNDP's Programme Coordinator, Saule
Ospanova, believes that such information should
be incorporated into the country's school
curriculum. (6.4")

SAULE OSPANOVA: (In English)

OSPANOVA ON-CAMERA

"Ultimately our goal is for these educational models to be included into the State's educational system, so that kids are educated in the kindergarten level and the school level."

(15")

NARRATION

BUILDINGS WITH MOUNTAINS

The stunning beauty of Almaty city betrays the danger that its inhabitants face from natural disasters. Surviving an earthquake and reducing

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its health impact requires preparation, planning, and practice. Learning what actions to take and reducing possible hazards at home can be the difference between life and death when a major natural disaster strikes.

(20")

This report was prepared by the United Nations.

UN LOGO