



DISASTER RESPONSE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

A Guide to International Tools and Services



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acronyms

Preface

<u>I. INTRODUCTION ▶</u>	6
<u>II. INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ARCHITECTURE ▶</u>	8
A. Regulatory Action	8
Binding regulatory agreements between States	9
Non-binding regulatory agreements between States	10
Voluntary guidelines governing humanitarian action	11
B. Humanitarian Actors	14
United Nations	14
International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	15
Regional intergovernmental organizations and forums	16
Non-governmental organizations	20
Assisting Governments	21
Private sector	21
C. International Coordination Mechanisms	22
Global level mechanisms	22
Country level mechanisms	24
“Bridging” mechanisms	25
<u>III. TOOLS AND SERVICES FOR DISASTER RESPONSE ▶</u>	30
A. Technical Team Mobilization	30
Bilateral	33
Intergovernmental	34
RCRC Movement	36
B. Technical Services Mobilization	38
Relief assets and stockpiles	39
Technical networks and manuals	42
Standby and surge rosters	42

TABLE OF CONTENTS

C. Financial Resources Mobilization	44	
"Fast money" mechanisms	44	
Strategic and fundraising tools	48	
D. Information Management and Assessments	50	
Overall information management	51	
Reporting tools	52	
Websites	52	
Satellite imagery and mapping	54	
Assessments	55	
<u>IV. TOOLS AND SERVICES FOR DISASTER RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS ▶</u>		57
A. Technical Training	57	
International technical training	58	
Bilateral technical training	62	
B. Readiness Planning	63	
Legal preparedness	64	
Integrated preparedness packages and missions	65	
Support for National Incident Management Systems	67	
C. Simulation exercises	67	
International organization-led exercises	68	
Regional organization-led exercises	69	
D. Early warning systems	70	
Weather forecasting	70	
Flood, tsunami and multi-hazard	71	

ACRONYMS

AADMER	ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response	ERF	Emergency Response Fund
ACAPS	Assessment Capacities Project	ERU	Emergency Response Unit (IFRC)
ACDM	ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management	EU	European Union
ADB	Asian Development Bank	FACT	Field Assessment Coordination Team (IFRC)
ADMER Fund	ASEAN Disaster Management and Emergency Relief Fund	FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
ADPC	Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre	FEAT	Flash Environmental Assessment Tool
ADRC	Asian Disaster Reduction Centre	FTS	Financial Tracking Service
ADRRN	Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network	GDACS	Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System
ARDEX	ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercises	GenCap	Gender Standby Capacity Roster
ARF	ASEAN Regional Forum	GFDRR	Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction (World Bank)
AHA Centre	ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management	GIS	Geographic information systems
ALNAP	Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance	HAP	Humanitarian Accountability Partnership
APC-MADRO	Asia-Pacific Conferences on Military Assistance to Disaster Relief Operations	HAT	Humanitarian Advisory Team
APDRF	Asia-Pacific Disaster Response Fund	HC	Humanitarian Coordinator
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Community	HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
APEC EPWG	APEC Emergency Preparedness Working Group	HEWS	Humanitarian Emergency Warning Service
APG	AADMER Partnership Group	HFA	Hyogo Framework Agreement
APHP	Asia-Pacific Humanitarian Partnership	HIC	Humanitarian Information Centre
APRSAF	Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum	IAES	IASC Inter-Agency Emergency Simulation
ARRND	SAARC Agreement on Rapid Response to Natural Disasters	IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
CADRE	Community Action for Disaster Response (ADPC)	ICS	Incident command system
CAP	Consolidated Appeal Process	ICT	Information communications technology
CDAC	Communicating with Disaster-Affected Communities	ICVA	International Council of Voluntary Agencies
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund	IDPs	Internally displaced persons
CHASE	Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department	IDRL	International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility	IEC	INSARAG External Classification
CTA	Central Tracing Agency (ICRC)	IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
DART	Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID)	IHL	International humanitarian law
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)	IHP	International Humanitarian Partnership
DiREx	ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Disaster Relief Exercise	IM	Information management
DMRS	Disaster Monitoring and Response System (ASEAN)	IMU	Information Management Unit
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	INEE	Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies
DREF	Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (IFRC)	INSARAG	International Search and Rescue Advisory Group
DRR	Disaster risk reduction	IOM	International Organization for Migration
EAS	East Asia Summit	IOTWS	Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System
ECB Project	Emergency Capacity-Building Project	JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
ECHO	European Commission Humanitarian Office	JTWS	Joint Typhoon Warning System
ECOSOC	UN Economic and Social Council	LEGS	Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards
EEC	Environmental Emergencies Centre (OCHA/UNEP)	LRT	Logistics Response Team
EmWIN	Emergency Managers Weather Information Service (USA)	MAC	Multi-agency coordination
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre	MCDA	Military and Civil-Defence Assets
ERAT	Emergency Rapid Assessment Team (ASEAN)	MIRA	Multi-Cluster Initial Rapid Assessment
ERC	Emergency Relief Coordinator	MISP	Minimum Initial Service Package for Reproductive Health in Crisis Situations
		MSEE	Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies, Chronic Crises and Early Reconstruction
		MOU	Memorandum of understanding
		MPP	Minimum Preparedness Package
		NDMO	National disaster management organization

ACRONYMS

NDRRMC	National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (Philippines)	UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
NGO	Non-governmental organization	UNHRD	UN Humanitarian Response Depot
NIMS	National Incident Command System	UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (USA)	UNISDR	UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
NORCAP	Norwegian Refugee Council's Standby Roster	UNOSAT	UNITAR's Operational Satellite Applications Programme
OCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	UN RC	UN Resident Coordinator
OCHA ASP	OCHA Associates Surge Pool	UN-SPIDER	UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response
OCHA CMCS	OCHA Civil-Military Coordination Services	USA	United States of America
OCHA ERR	OCHA Emergency Response Roster	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
OCHA FCSS	OCHA Field Coordination Support Section	USAID/OFDA	USAID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance
OCHA ROAP	OCHA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific	USAR	Urban search and rescue
OCHA ROP	OCHA Regional Office for the Pacific	USD	US dollar
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights	USG	Under-Secretary-General (UN)
OSOCC	On-Site Operations Coordination Centre	USGS	United States Geological Service
PAHO	Pan-American Health Organization	VOSOCC	Virtual On-Site Operations Coordination Centre
PDC	Pacific Disaster Center	WFP	World Food Programme
PDN	Pacific Disaster Net	WHO	World Health Organization
PEER	Programme for Enhancement of Emergency Response (ADPC)		
PHT	Pacific Humanitarian Team		
PIF	Pacific Islands Forum		
ProCap	Protection Standby Capacity Roster		
PTWS	Pacific Tsunami Warning System		
RCRC	International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement		
RDRT	Regional Disaster Response Team (IFRC)		
RF	Recovery Framework		
RFL	Restoring Family Links (ICRC)		
RIMES	Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System		
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation		
SADKN	South Asian Disaster Knowledge Network		
SASOP	Standby arrangements and standard operating procedures (ASEAN)		
SCHR	Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response		
SDMC	SAARC Disaster Management Centre		
Sitrep	Situation Report		
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community		
SPC/SOPAC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community/Applied Geoscience and Technology Division		
UK	United Kingdom		
UN	United Nations		
UN-CMCoord	UN Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination		
UNCT	UN Country Team		
UNDAC	UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination		
UNDMT	UN Disaster Management Team		
UNDP	UN Development Programme		
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme		
UNFPA	UN Population Fund		
UN GA	UN General Assembly		

What is the purpose of this guide?

Disaster Response in Asia and the Pacific: A Guide to International Tools and Services (hereafter referred to as “the guide”) is designed to help disaster managers in national Governments gain basic knowledge of how to use international tools and services.

The guide is not prescriptive. It aims to support the growing disaster response and disaster response preparedness capabilities that exist at national level across Asia and the Pacific.

Who is the guide for?

The guide is for national disaster management organizations (NDMOs) and line ministries involved in disaster response and disaster response preparedness. It is also a reference document for representatives of intergovernmental organizations, civil-society actors and disaster-affected people.

What is the scope of the guide?

The guide concentrates on key tools and services that can be helpful to disaster managers during the response and response preparedness phases of the disaster programme cycle. It does not include tools and services encompassed by disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts, nor does it cover longer-term disaster recovery instruments. The guide includes some entries relevant to conflict situations. It does not include tools or services that are being developed.

How can the guide be used?

- ▶ To create a common understanding of the tools and services available in the region.
- ▶ To support emergency decision-making in small-, medium and large-scale disasters.
- ▶ To help locate international technical expertise before and at the onset of a disaster.
- ▶ To facilitate partnerships between humanitarian actors.
- ▶ To inform academic curricula at national and regional learning institutions.

How is the guide organized?

The guide has three main sections: [I] International Humanitarian Architecture; [II] Tools and Services for Disaster Response; and [III] Tools and Services for Disaster Response Preparedness. The reverse chronological order of the guide - response before response preparedness - is intentional. It deliberately profiles tools and services for response before those for response preparedness to offer a better understanding of the utility of certain response preparedness activities and how they support response efforts.

Why has the guide been produced?

It has been produced in response to a call by UN Members States and other humanitarian stakeholders at the 2011 Regional Humanitarian Partnership Workshop for the Asia-Pacific Region held in Shanghai, China for a handbook to guide disaster managers in understanding the interaction between national, regional and international humanitarian response mechanisms.

This version was developed in consultation with some 75 Government officials across Asia and the Pacific and more than 50 representatives of intergovernmental organizations, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (RCRC Movement), national and international NGOs, donors and other key agencies worldwide.

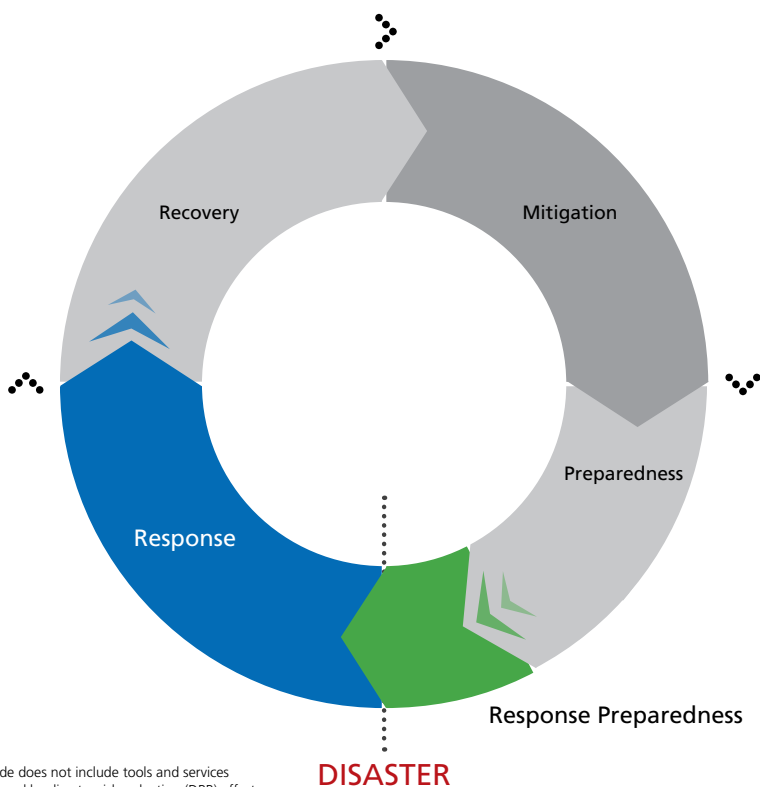
WHAT ARE THE DEFINITIONS OF DISASTER RESPONSE AND DISASTER RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS?

Disaster response and disaster response preparedness are defined as follows¹:

DISASTER RESPONSE:the provision of assistance or intervention during or immediately after a disaster to meet the life preservation and basic subsistence needs of those people affected.

DISASTER RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS:pre-disaster activities that are undertaken to minimize loss of life, injury and property damage in a disaster, and to ensure that rescue, relief, rehabilitation and other services can be provided following a disaster. Preparedness for the first and immediate response is called "emergency preparedness".

Scope of the Guide: Response & Response Preparedness



*The Guide does not include tools and services encompassed by disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts, including those preparedness efforts falling under Priority Action 5 of the Hyogo Agreement.

¹ Adapted from OCHA. [Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response: Guidance and Indicator Package for Implementing Priority 5 of the Hyogo Framework](#), Geneva, 2008.



This section of the guide is divided into three sub-sections:

A. REGULATORY ACTION

B. HUMANITARIAN ACTORS

C. INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

A. REGULATORY ACTION

The first responders in any emergency are disaster-affected people and their Governments. When Governments request international humanitarian support to respond to disasters, national legal systems are the main regulatory frameworks to ensure the protection of disaster-affected people.

Humanitarian action is also regulated by binding and non-binding international humanitarian and human rights law, as well as the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.

Humanity	Human suffering must be addressed wherever it is found. The purpose of humanitarian action is to protect life and health and ensure respect for human beings.
Neutrality	Humanitarian actors must not take sides in hostilities or engage in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.
Impartiality	Humanitarian action must be carried out on the basis of need alone, making no distinctions on the basis of nationality, race, gender, religious belief, class or political opinions.
Independence	Humanitarian action must be autonomous from the political, economic, military or other objectives that any actor may hold in relation to areas where humanitarian action is being implemented.

The key objective of international humanitarian action is to support national efforts in protecting the lives, livelihoods and dignity of people in need.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF HUMANITARIAN REGULATORY AGREEMENTS?

The regulation of international humanitarian action serves three main functions:

- ▶ It safeguards the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- ▶ It guarantees fundamental rights and protection for disaster-affected communities.
- ▶ It rationalizes roles and responsibilities between humanitarian actors.

Regulation of international humanitarian action in Asia and the Pacific can be understood according to three categories: [a] binding regulatory agreements between States; [b] non-binding regulatory agreements between States; and [c] voluntary guidelines governing humanitarian action of State and non-State actors.

The guide does not list all of the regulatory documents that could be applicable in a disaster, but focuses on those considered most relevant to humanitarian action in the region.

BINDING REGULATORY AGREEMENTS BETWEEN STATES

There are two binding agreements between States in Asia and the Pacific that regulate disaster preparedness and response action:

1. ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response
2. SAARC Agreement on Rapid Response to Natural Disasters

[ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response \(AADMER\)](#) is a legally-binding regional multi-hazard and policy framework for cooperation, coordination, technical assistance and resource mobilization in all aspects of disaster management in the 10 ASEAN Member states¹. The objective of AADMER is to provide an effective mechanism to achieve substantial reduction of disaster losses in lives and in social, economic and environmental assets, and to jointly respond to emergencies through concerted national efforts and intensified regional and international co-operation. The AADMER Work Programme for the period of 2010-2015 translates the intent and spirit of AADMER into a comprehensive and holistic action plan.



Through its Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations (SASOP), the AADMER enables ASEAN Member States to mobilize and deploy resources and for emergency response. It was signed by ASEAN Member States in 2005 and entered into force in December 2009.

[South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation \(SAARC\) Agreement on Rapid Response for Natural Disasters \(ARRND\)](#) is a regional disaster management agreement that reinforces existing mechanisms for rapid response to disasters. ARRND obliges SAARC Member States³ to take legislative and administrative measures to implement agreement provisions. These include measures for requesting and receiving assistance; conducting needs assessments; mobilizing equipment, personnel, materials and other facilities; making regional standby arrangements, including emergency stockpiles; and ensuring quality control of relief items. ARRND was signed by SAARC Member States in 2011 and is in the process of being ratified by them.



² The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

³ The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Member States are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

NON-BINDING REGULATORY AGREEMENTS BETWEEN STATES

A number of important non-binding agreements between States that also govern international humanitarian action for the purposes of effective disaster response are as follows:

1. United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/182⁴
2. International Federation of the Red Cross Red Crescent Societies guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance
3. World Customs Organization Resolution of the Customs Co-operation Council on the Role of Customs in Natural Disaster Relief
4. FRANZ Agreement for the South Pacific Region

United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/182 defines the role of the United Nations (UN) in coordinating international humanitarian assistance when a Government requests external support. The resolution establishes a number of UN mechanisms to strengthen effectiveness of international humanitarian action, namely the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP), the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). Resolution 46/182 was unanimously adopted by UN Member States in 1991.



WHAT DOES RESOLUTION 46/182 SAY ABOUT SOVEREIGNTY?

“Sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of States shall be fully respected in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. In this context, humanitarian assistance should be provided with the consent of the affected country and in principle on the basis of a request by the affected country.”

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Guideline for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance (also known as the IDRL Guidelines) are a set of recommendations that seek to assist Governments in preparing national legal frameworks for international disaster relief operations. The guidelines address issues including requesting and receiving international assistance; issuing visas and work permits to international humanitarian personnel; customs clearance of relief items; taxation; and obtaining domestic legal personality or legal status. The guidelines were unanimously adopted by all States parties to the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement at the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2007.



World Customs Organization Resolution of the Customs Co-operation Council on the Role of Customs in Natural Disaster Relief highlights the need for disaster preparedness in Customs administrations. It encourages States to implement measures expediting and facilitating relief consignments⁵. The World Customs Organization resolution was unanimously adopted by World Customs Organization Member States in 2011.



⁴ In addition to resolution 46/182, there is a volume of UN General Assembly, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and Security Council resolutions that govern international humanitarian action. These resolutions can be accessed at www.unocha.org/about-us/publications/flagship.

Among non-binding regional agreements, there is the [France, Australia and New Zealand \(FRANZ\) Agreement](#), which facilitates the rationalization of international emergency operations in cases of natural disaster in the South Pacific region. In particular, it commits its signatories – France, Australia and New Zealand – to exchange information to ensure the best use of assets and other resources for relief operations. Ad hoc quadrilateral agreements with other donor countries offering assistance have also been formed around the FRANZ Agreement.⁶



VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES GOVERNING HUMANITARIAN ACTION

A secondary body of voluntary guidelines governs relations among humanitarian actors and between humanitarian actors and disaster-affected people. These guidelines apply to a variety of audiences within the international humanitarian community. The below list focuses on some of the most important humanitarian guidelines, but is not exhaustive.

1. Code of Conduct for the RCRC Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief
2. Sphere Handbook - Humanitarian Accountability Partnership Standard in Humanitarian Accountability
3. IASC Operational Guidelines on the Protection of Persons in Situations of Natural Disasters
4. Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement
5. Oslo Guidelines on the Use of Foreign Military and Civil-Defence Assets in Disaster Relief
6. Asia-Pacific Regional Guidelines for the use of Foreign Military Assets in Natural Disaster Response Operations
7. Management of Dead Bodies after Disasters Field Manual
8. Guidelines for Environmental Emergencies
9. IASC Guidelines for Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings
10. IASC Gender Handbook in Humanitarian Action

Before describing each of the voluntary guidelines in detail, it is important to note that an initiative is underway to collect and harmonize the multitude of voluntary guidelines and standards governing humanitarian action. This initiative is called the [Joint Standards Initiative](#) and is co-led by the Humanitarian Accountability Project (HAP), People in Aid and the Sphere Project.

[Code of Conduct for the RCRC Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief](#) is a voluntary code adhered to by the RCRC Movement and participating NGOs. It lays down 10 points of principle to which signatory agencies commit to adhere in their disaster response work and describes the relationships they should seek with affected communities, donor governments, host governments and the UN system. To date, 492 separate organizations have signed the Code of Conduct. To view a list of signatories, or if interested in becoming a signatory to the Code of Conduct can find [registration details here](#).



⁵ As contained in Chapter 5 of Specific Annex J to the [Revised Kyoto Convention](#)

⁶ The FRANZ Agreement applies to the Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna, and to other South Pacific countries and territories on a case-by-case basis.

Sphere Project: Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere Handbook) is an internationally-recognized set of common principles and universal minimum standards for the delivery of humanitarian assistance. It aims to improve the quality of assistance provided to people affected by disasters, and to improve the accountability of humanitarian actors to their constituents, donors and affected people. Sphere standards guide humanitarian action across four primary areas: [1] water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion; [2] food security and nutrition; [3] shelter, settlement and non-food items; and [4] health action. There is also a series of Sphere companion standards, published as separate volumes, but compiled with the same rigour and process of consultation as the Sphere Handbook. These include:



1. [Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies \(INEE\) Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies, Chronic Crises and Early Reconstruction \(MSEE\) \[2008⁷\]](#)
2. [Minimum Initial Service Package for Reproductive Health in Crisis Situations \(MISP\) \[2010\]](#)
3. [Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards \(LEGS\) \[2011\]](#)
4. [Small Enterprise Education and Promotion Network's Minimum Standards for Economic Recovery after Crisis \[2011\]](#)

The Sphere Project is not a membership organization; the Project is governed by a Board composed of representatives of global networks of humanitarian agencies.

HAP Standards in Humanitarian Accountability are another set of voluntary standards to improve the quality of humanitarian action. The HAP set of standards includes a complementary system of certification for humanitarian agencies that allows them to demonstrate compliance with proven good practices in humanitarian action. HAP certification is valid for three years. There are currently 87 HAP member agencies worldwide; 15 of which have undergone HAP certification. For a full list of HAP-affiliated agencies, [see here](#). The HAP membership process takes approximately 30 days. To apply, please [click here](#).



What does the HAP certification look like?



IASC Operational Guidelines on the Protection of Persons in Situations of Natural Disasters promote and facilitate a rights-based approach to disaster relief. In particular, they call on humanitarian actors to ensure that human rights principles are integrated into all disaster response and recovery efforts, and that affected people are fully consulted and can participate in all stages of disaster response. The IASC published the Operational Guidelines in 2011. They are based on existing human rights law and humanitarian accountability standards.



⁷ MSEE were established in 2004. They were distinguished as Sphere Companion Standards in 2008.

[Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement](#) identify rights and guarantees relevant to the protection of persons from forced displacement and to their protection and assistance during displacement as well as during return or resettlement and reintegration. They were established by the United Nations in 1998.



[Oslo Guidelines on the Use of Foreign Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief](#) address the use of foreign military and civil-defence assets in international disaster relief operations. The guidelines highlight the principle that use of foreign military and civil-defence assets should be requested only where there is no comparable civilian alternative. They also provide principles and procedures for requesting and coordinating military and civil-defence assets when these resources are deemed necessary and appropriate for humanitarian response. A Consultative Group on the Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets manages the Oslo Guidelines.



[Asia-Pacific Regional Guidelines for the Use of Foreign Military Assets in Natural Disaster Response Operations](#) reinforce the principles of the Oslo Guidelines and provide regional contexts for Asia and the Pacific. They were established in 2011 and are the outcome of the Asia-Pacific Conferences on Military Assistance to Disaster Relief Operations (APC-MADRO) in which 16 countries from across the Asia-Pacific region participated.



[Management of Dead Bodies after Disasters Field Manual](#) is a technical guide produced jointly by the ICRC, IFRC, Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and WHO, which outlines the proper and dignified management of dead bodies after a disaster. The manual covers a range of specific tasks related to the management of dead bodies including infectious disease risks, body recovery, storage, identification, and disposal of dead bodies. The Field Manual also includes a number of identification and inventory forms among other useful resources.



[Guidelines for Environmental Emergencies](#) offer technical guidance to Governments wishing to improve their preparedness frameworks for environmental emergencies and for international environmental emergency responders providing assistance. They were jointly developed by OCHA and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and issued in 2009.



[IASC Guidelines for Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Settings](#) enable Governments, humanitarian organizations, and communities to establish and coordinate a set of minimum multi-sectoral interventions to prevent and respond to gender-based violence during the early phase of an emergency. They were established by the IASC in 2005.



[IASC Gender Handbook in Humanitarian Action](#)⁸ sets forth standards for the integration of gender issues from the outset of an emergency so that humanitarian services reach their target audience and have maximum impact. The Handbook was published in 2006.



REMEMBER

States are always responsible for disaster response efforts on their sovereign territories. External support for disaster response is only triggered if a State's national capacities are exceeded, and if it requests and/or accepts international assistance.

⁸ A complete list of Guidances that have been approved by the IASC is [available online here](#)

B. HUMANITARIAN ACTORS

If a Government requests and/or accepts external assistance, a variety of international humanitarian actors may be asked to support disaster response and disaster response preparedness, including the UN, RCRC Movement, regional intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), assisting Governments, and the private sector.⁹ Below is a short description of these different categories of international humanitarian actors.



HOW TO READ THIS SECTION?

Each category and sub-category of humanitarian actor includes a short description of who it is and what it does, followed by a call-out in green bold:

HOW DOES THIS ENTITY WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

UNITED NATIONS

UN Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies (UN Agencies) have their membership, leadership and budget processes separate to those of the UN Secretariat, but are committed to work with and through the established UN coordination mechanisms and report to the UN Member States through their respective governing boards. The UN agencies, most of which also have pre-existing development-focused relationships with Member States, provide sector-specific support and expertise before, during and after a disaster. The main UN agencies with humanitarian mandates include FAO, IOM, OCHA, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UN-HABITAT, UNICEF, UN Women, WFP and WHO, which support disaster response across needs, from shelter, protection, food security, health, nutrition, education and livelihoods to common services like coordination, logistics and telecommunications.



The senior UN official in a country is usually designated as the Resident Coordinator (UN RC) – the primary focal point for a Government’s engagement with the UN system. In some cases, the designation of Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) may also be given to a UN official, making that person the primary focal point for interaction between Government, UN and non-governmental actors working in the humanitarian field. The UN has also established a number of interdependent coordination and response mechanisms designed to support it in fulfilling its humanitarian responsibilities; these are described in detail under the next section on coordination mechanisms.

HOW DO UN ORGANIZATIONS WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

At the country level, UN organizations work in partnership with NDMOs and with respective Government line ministries.

⁹ Because the scope of the guide is limited to response and response preparedness, it is not possible for the Guide to fully describe the significant community of regional and international intergovernmental organizations that work in disaster mitigation and risk reduction; however, three among them merit mention here: [UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction \(UNISDR\)](#), [Asian Disaster Reduction Centre \(ADRC\)](#) and the [Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction \(GFDRR\)](#) of the World Bank.

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The [RCRC Movement](#) is the world's largest humanitarian network, comprising nearly 100 million members, volunteers and supporters of 187 National Societies. Structurally, the RCRC Movement comprises three core components:

1. 187 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
2. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
3. International Committee of the Red Cross

Together, these components operate worldwide with a mission to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found, to protect life and health, and to ensure respect for the human being, particularly in times of armed conflict and other emergencies. The RCRC Movement works in accordance with the fundamental principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.

[National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies \(National Societies\)](#) occupy a unique place as auxiliaries to the public authorities in their countries. They provide disaster relief, support health and social programmes, and promote international humanitarian law and humanitarian values.



HOW DO NATIONAL SOCIETIES WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

National societies are generally the first points of contact for Governments requesting additional support from IFRC (in natural disasters) and ICRC (in situations of armed conflict). National societies are not NGOs, and have a different relationship with Governments and public authorities than registered NGOs. National Societies work alongside national and local public authorities in disaster situations. In Asia and the Pacific, 37 countries have a National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society.

WHAT DOES THE TERM "AUXILIARY ROLE" MEAN?

It is a technical term to express the unique partnership a National Society has with its Government in providing public humanitarian services. Although National Societies work alongside Governments and public authorities, they are independent and their work is not controlled or directed by the national Government. Each Government must recognize its National Society as a legal entity and allow it to operate according to the fundamental principles of the RCRC Movement.

[International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies \(IFRC\)](#) coordinates and directs assistance in natural disasters in support of the National Society. IFRC and its National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies also undertake activities including preparedness, response and development work, including disaster preparedness, emergency health, disaster law, water and sanitation, and humanitarian diplomacy. The IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office is in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



HOW DOES IFRC WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

IFRC interfaces with Governments directly and through the 187-member National Societies.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization mandated to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and other situations of violence and provide them with assistance. During armed conflict, ICRC is responsible for directing and coordinating the RCRC Movement's international relief activities. ICRC promotes the importance of International Humanitarian Law and draws attention to universal humanitarian principles. ICRC has been granted observer status to the UN General Assembly. Its headquarters are in Geneva and it has country and regional offices throughout Asia and the Pacific.



HOW DOES ICRC WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

In a conflict-affected country, ICRC and that country's National Society pool their operational resources to support victims of war and other situations of violence.

REGIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND FORUMS

The Asia-Pacific region comprises many intergovernmental organizations that offer an array of humanitarian tools and services to Member States and participating states. Several regional intergovernmental organizations and forums active in emergency preparedness and response are described here:

1. Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance and the ASEAN Regional Forum
2. South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation
3. Pacific Islands Forum¹⁰
4. Secretariat of the Pacific Community¹¹
5. East Asia Summit
6. Asia Pacific Economic Community

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) established the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) in 2003¹² which assumes overall responsibility for coordinating and implementing regional disaster management activities for the 10 ASEAN Member States. It consists of the heads of NDMOs of all ASEAN member countries. As part of its objective in pursuing an ASEAN region of disaster-resilient



¹⁰ PIF members are Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. In addition to SPC and PIF, Pacific Island countries are also networked through the secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), which focuses on climate change and resource sustainability.

¹¹ SPC membership comprises the PIF nations plus the territories of American Samoa, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia, Northern Mariana Islands, Pitcairn Islands, Tokelau and Wallis and Futuna, as well as France and the United States of America.

¹² ACDM has existed since the 1970s but was significantly strengthened in 2003.

countries and safer communities, it adopted the AADMER in 2005. It now provides policy oversight and supervision in the implementation process of the AADMER Work Programme.

HOW DOES THE ASEAN ACDM WORK WITH ASEAN GOVERNMENTS?

The ASEAN ACDM is made up of NDMOs from all 10 ASEAN member states. ACDM members are also the AADMER National Focal Points. The ACDM reports to the Conference of Parties composed of ministers in charge of disaster management.

Established in 2011, the [ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management \(AHA Centre\)](#) is responsible for the operational coordination of all activities envisaged under the AADMER. The AHA Centre facilitates co-operation and co-ordination among the ASEAN Member States, and with relevant United Nations and International organizations, in promoting regional collaboration. AHA Centre offers a range of tools and services, including trainings and capacity-building of ASEAN NDMOs and deployment of emergency response teams.



ASEAN Disaster Monitoring and Response System (DMRS) and the ASEAN Disaster Information Network (ADInet) provide monitoring services and disaster information to NDMOs through web-based facilities. The AHA Centre also manages an inter-agency partnership framework between ASEAN and seven major international NGOs¹³, called the [AADMER Partnership Group \(APG\)](#) to promote a civil-society approach to the implementation of the AADMER. The Secretariat of AHA Centre is located in Jakarta, Indonesia.

HOW DOES THE AHA CENTRE WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

The AHA Centre is the first point of contact for ASEAN states in the event of a disaster. The AHA Centre is governed by NDMO representatives from all 10 ASEAN member states in their capacity as ACDM representatives and ASEAN National Focal Points.

With a membership that extends beyond the 10 ASEAN members to include 26 countries (and the European Union), the [ASEAN Regional Forum \(ARF\)](#) is a broad-based political and security cooperation platform to foster constructive dialogue on issues of common interest. It also contributes to confidence-building and preventive diplomacy in the region. In addition to the 10 ASEAN nations, current members include Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the European Union, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mongolia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Russia, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and the United States.



HOW DOES ARF WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

The ARF provides a platform for dialogue through a series of annual meetings. The most senior of these is held annually at the Foreign Minister level in June in conjunction with the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference.¹⁴

¹³ Participating NGOs include Global Movement for Children, Help Age, Mercy Malaysia, Oxfam, Plan International, Save the Children, and World Vision.

¹⁴ To support this two ARF Senior Officials Meetings are held annually in May/June. These in turn are informed by two ARF Inter-Sessional Support Group Meetings (ISG) on Confidence Building Measures and Preventative Diplomacy and by four Inter-Sessional Meetings (ISM) on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime, Disaster Relief, Maritime Security, and Nonproliferation and Disarmament.

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) adopted the SAARC Comprehensive Framework on Disaster Management in 2006, establishing the SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SMDC). SDMC's mandate is to establish and strengthen the South Asia regional disaster management system as a tool to reduce risks and improve response and recovery. SDMC is envisaged to function under the auspices of the SAARC ARRND treaty to improve and maintain regional standby arrangements, among other cooperative mechanisms, for disaster relief and emergency response. SDMC is located at the SAARC secretariat in New Delhi.



HOW DOES SAARC SDMC WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

It does this through national focal points of member countries, and with ministries, departments and associations within Governments.

Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) is an international organization established by treaty with 16 Member States across the Pacific region. PIF is mandated to strengthen regional coordination and integration through policy advice to and support for the implementation of the PIF leader's decisions under the auspices of a strategic framework called the Pacific Plan. The PIF secretariat is in Suva, Fiji.



HOW DOES PIF WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

PIF holds an annual meeting followed by a number of post-forum dialogues with key Government partners during the year to discuss aspects of the Pacific Plan which can include disaster response and disaster response preparedness.

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) supports the 22 Pacific Island countries and territories to address the risks posed by climate vulnerability and natural disasters. SPC is engaged in all sciences concerned with the Earth, including geological, physical, chemical and biological processes. The SPC organizes its work according to three technical programme areas: oceans and islands; water and sanitation; and disaster reduction. Its headquarters are in Suva, Fiji.



HOW DOES SPC WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

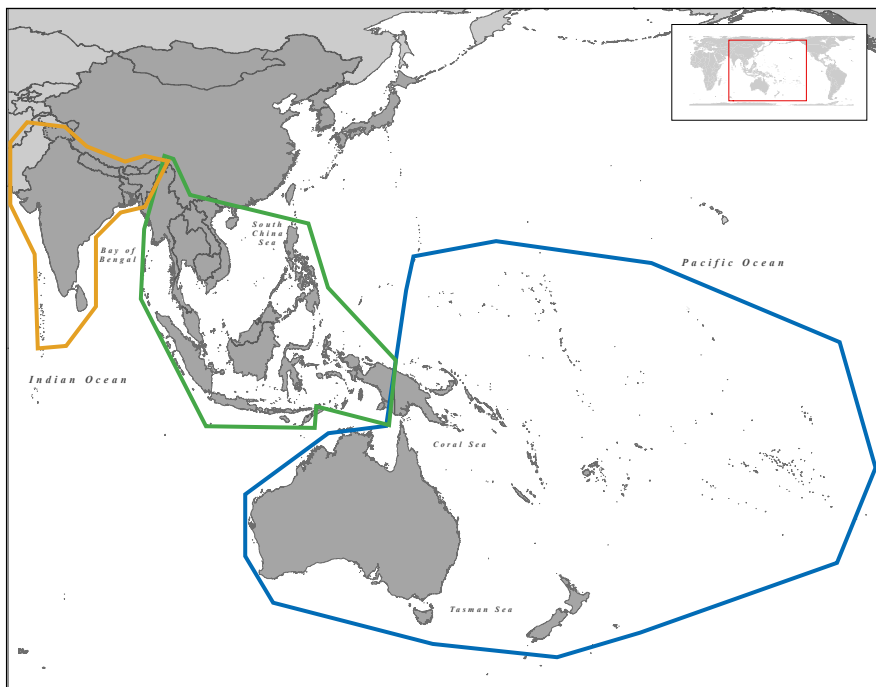
Pacific Island member countries receive basic geological knowledge in support of disaster response preparedness capabilities from SPC. SPC is not involved in disaster response.

East Asia Summit (EAS) is a regional forum for dialogue on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern. It brings together the leaders of the 10 ASEAN Member States, as well as Australia, China, Japan, India, Korea, Russian Federation and the United States. Disaster response and humanitarian assistance are among the wide range of regional concerns covered by the EAS agenda. In 2012, India hosted the first EAS meeting specifically addressing disaster risk management.

HOW DOES EAS WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

Held at the Head of State level, EAS meetings are organized each year following the annual ASEAN leaders' meeting. The specific framework by which countries will gather to discuss disaster management issues has not yet established, but a proposal by the Governments of Australia and Indonesia would create a coordination framework through an expanded ACDM membership.

Map of Sub-regional Forums: ASEAN, SAARC, SPC/SOPAC



— ASEAN Member States:

Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam.

— SAARC Member States:

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

— SOPAC Member States:

Australia, The Cook Islands, The Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, The Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, The Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a forum of 21 Pacific Rim economies that seeks to promote free trade and economic cooperation. APEC comprises an Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) mandated to coordinate and facilitate emergency and disaster preparedness within APEC. EPWG is focused on reducing the risk of disasters, and building business and community resilience through knowledge sharing and collaboration among its 21 member economies. EPWG has developed a Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia-Pacific Region 2009-2015, which guides its activities in this area.



HOW DOES APEC EPWG WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

APEC EPWG is co-chaired by two member economies for two years. The working group meets once a year with the heads of emergency management agencies and holds additional workshops as required.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS¹⁵

Civil-society actors can be divided into two categories: national and community-based non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and international NGOs. In addition to their independent relationships with Governments, NGOs assemble themselves according to networks and consortia on global, regional and country levels.

National and community-based NGOs are civil-society organizations that function within national borders only. These NGOs work independently to support the emergency preparedness and response activities of Governments, UN agencies and larger international NGOs. They generally possess strong community-based networks critical to reaching disaster-affected communities. National NGOs can be either secular or faith based entities.

In Asia and the Pacific, 48 national NGOs from 18 countries participate in a consortium called the Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN). ADRRN aims to promote coordination and information sharing among NGOs and other stakeholders for effective disaster reduction and response.

HOW DO NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY-BASED NGOS WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

National NGOs are officially registered as national organizations with host Governments. National NGOs, sometimes with international NGOs, organize themselves according to consortia that interface with Governments on sector-specific bases.

International NGOs operating in emergency preparedness and response include humanitarian organizations and multi-mandated organizations that operate independently to provide humanitarian assistance. The largest international NGOs, in terms of annual expenditure, are generally based in North America and Europe, with regional and country offices across Asia and the Pacific and other parts of the world¹⁶. There is also a growing number of NGOs based in Asia and the Pacific with

¹⁵ Descriptions for this sub-section of the guide rely in part on the work of ALNAP. The State of the Humanitarian System, 2012 Edition, Overseas Development Institute, 2012

¹⁶ According to ALNAP, the five largest international NGOs, measured by expenditure on humanitarian programming in 2010, were Médecins sans Frontières, Catholic Relief Services, Oxfam International, the International Save the Children Alliance, and World Vision International.

programmes of international reach. International NGOs can also be either secular or faith-based. International NGOs receive regular funding from donor Governments, private foundations and corporations, but a growing proportion of their resources comes from the general public in their countries of origin and countries of operation.

International NGOs are represented at global coordination platforms by consortia such as the [International Council of Voluntary Agencies](#), [Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response \(SCHR\)](#) and [InterAction](#). Other consortia can be formed to address global NGO priorities; for example, CARE, Catholic Relief Services, Mercy Corps, Oxfam, Save the Children, International Rescue Committee and World Vision participate in a global initiative called the [Emergency Capacity-Building \(ECB\) Project](#), which focuses on developing national staff skills, facilitating collaboration and creating practical tools and approaches to disaster preparedness and risk reduction programming.¹⁷

HOW DO INTERNATIONAL NGOS WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

The presence of international NGOs in host countries is facilitated by an official registration with the host Government, and guided by individual memorandums of understanding with NDMOs and line ministries engaged in humanitarian and development activities.

ASSISTING GOVERNMENTS

Assisting (donor) Governments are central to disaster response. Governments can assist in international disaster response by giving assistance through direct bilateral contributions to affected States, including through the mobilization of in-kind aid of MCDA. They can also channel funding through multilateral agencies such as UN agencies, Regional Organizations, the RCRC Movement, or NGOs. There are a number of Governments that routinely respond to the needs of disaster-affected states, both from within the Asia and the Pacific region as well as from Europe and the Americas.

HOW DO ASSISTING GOVERNMENTS WORK WITH AFFECTED GOVERNMENTS?

Many assisting (donor) Governments have established aid cooperation structures, often embedded in their respective Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The day-to-day management of the cooperation takes place through the embassies in the affected countries.

PRIVATE SECTOR

Private sector companies are increasingly involved in disaster response, often as part of their commitment to a corporate social responsibility (CSR) strategy. This involvement can take many forms, including as donors to the UN, Red Cross Red Crescent Societies, and NGOs, and as direct service providers of aid. Companies like DHL and Ericsson have been working to support humanitarian logistics and telecommunications for years and are being joined by a growing number of private sector actors now involved in disaster response. The vast majority of private companies' involvement in disaster relief occurs independently.

¹⁷ The ECB partnership is implemented by inter-agency consortium in four countries, two of which are in the Asia-Pacific region. The four countries of the ECB are Bangladesh, Indonesia, Bolivia and Niger. ECB can be accessed through one of its participating organizations or through the contact information on its website.

HOW DOES THE PRIVATE SECTOR WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

Governments may be approached by private sector companies that wish to offer assistance and should examine those offers on their own merits. The modalities for private sector assistance are varied and it may be convenient to reach out to a broader spectrum of companies interested in contributing to disaster relief through the national or local level Chamber of Commerce (or equivalent).

C. INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Effective disaster response requires careful coordination at global, regional and national levels. As noted above, the UN has established a number of interdependent coordination mechanisms designed to guide relations among humanitarian actors and between humanitarian actors, Governments and disaster-affected people to ensure the delivery of coherent and principled assistance.

This section of the guide describes the structure and operating protocols of the principal international coordination framework, with details on how the component mechanisms work during both the disaster response and disaster response preparedness phases. It also offers clear information about how these coordination mechanisms interrelate with one another and how they work with Governments. The mechanisms presented include:

1. Emergency Relief Coordinator
2. Inter-Agency Standing Committee
3. Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators
4. Humanitarian Country Team
5. Cluster Approach
6. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

GLOBAL LEVEL MECHANISMS

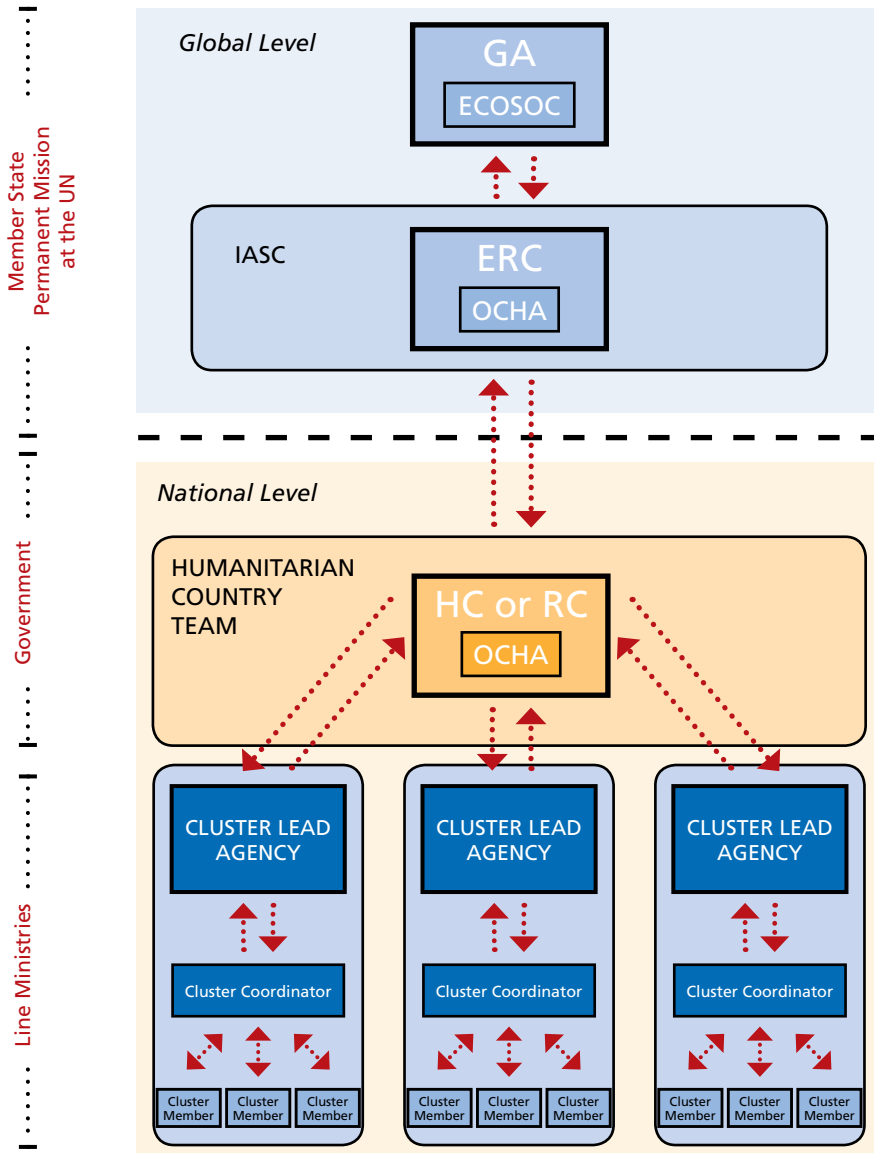
Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) is the most senior UN official dealing with humanitarian affairs, mandated by the UN General Assembly to coordinate international humanitarian assistance during emergency response, whether carried out by governmental, intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations. S/he reports directly to the UN Secretary-General, with specific responsibility for processing Members States' requests and coordinating humanitarian assistance; ensuring information management and sharing to support early warning and response; facilitating access to emergency areas; organizing needs assessments, preparing joint appeals, and mobilizing resources to support humanitarian response; and supporting a smooth transition from relief to recovery operations.



HOW DOES THE ERC WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

The ERC is responsible for the oversight of all emergencies requiring international humanitarian assistance and supervises the actions of country-level UN RCs and HCs. S/he also plays a central role in advocacy and fundraising for humanitarian action.

IASC Humanitarian Coordination Architecture*



- HC Humanitarian Coordinator
- RC Regional Coordinator
- ERC Emergency Relief Coordinator
- ECOSOC Economic and Social Council
- GA General Assembly

*Adapted from IASC, Handbook for RCs and HCs on Emergency Preparedness and Response, 2010

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) is chaired by the ERC. It is an inter-agency forum for coordination, policy development and decision-making involving key UN and non-UN humanitarian partners. IASC members are FAO, OCHA, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. IASC Standing Invitees are ICRC, the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), IFRC, InterAction, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR), Office of the Special



Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons and the World Bank. The IASC continuously seeks to improve the effectiveness of the humanitarian system as a whole. It is currently engaged in implementing changes to improve how the international humanitarian system particularly in the areas of effective coordination, better accountability and a strengthened leadership, through the so-called IASC “Transformative Agenda.”

HOW DOES THE IASC WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

The IASC and its subsidiary bodies are global mechanisms. At the country level, Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs) fulfil a similar function and have similar membership to the IASC among humanitarian organizations resident or working in the host country.

IASC Inter-Agency Standing Committee

FULL MEMBERS



FULL MEMBERS:

FAO, OCHA, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WHO.

STANDING INVITEES:

ICRC, ICVA, IFRC, InterAction, IOM, OHCHR, SCHR, SR on HR of IDPs, World Bank.

STANDING INVITEES



COUNTRY LEVEL MECHANISMS

UN Resident Coordinator (UN RC) is the designated representative of the UN Secretary-General in a particular country and leader of the UN Country Team (UNCT). The UN RC function is usually performed by the UNDP Resident Representative. S/he is accredited by letter from the UN Secretary-General to the Head of State or Government.

Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) is appointed by the ERC, in consultation with the IASC, when large-scale and/or sustained international humanitarian assistance is required in a country. The decision to assign an HC to a country is often made at the start of a crisis and in consultation with the affected Government. In some cases, the ERC may choose to designate the UN RC as the HC, in others another Head of



Agency (UN and/or INGO participating in the coordinated response system) may be appointed and/or a stand-alone HC may be deployed from the pre-selected pool of HC candidates. The HC assumes the leadership of the HCT in a crisis. In the absence of an HC, the UN RC is responsible for the strategic and operational coordination of response efforts of UNCT member agencies and other relevant humanitarian actors.

HOW DOES THE RC AND/OR HC WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

The UN RC is the senior UN official in a country and the Government's first point of contact with the United Nations. The RC is responsible for coordination of all UN operational activities, and chairs the UNCT. Where appointed, however, the HC assumes leadership on humanitarian response and supports the coordination of all relevant humanitarian organizations (UN and non-UN). The HC is then the Government's first point of contact on disaster response. In a humanitarian situation where no HC has been appointed, the RC remains the Government's first point of contact and may Chair a humanitarian country team as well as the UNCT.

Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) is an in-country decision-making forum focused on providing common strategic and policy guidance on issues related to humanitarian action. HCT membership generally mirrors that of the IASC at country level, composed of UN and non-UN humanitarian organizations resident and/or working in the country. The HC is chaired by the HC, or in the absence of an HC, by the UN RC. Subject to their individual mandates, the components of the RCRC Movement may participate in an HCT. Some HCTs have also decided to include representatives of key assisting Governments in their membership.



HOW DOES AN HCT WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

An HCT's primary function is to provide strategic and policy guidance to humanitarian actors; however, it can also serve as a senior-level central point of interface for Governments.

PACIFIC HUMANITARIAN TEAM - ADAPTING THE HCT IN THE PACIFIC REGION

The Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) is a specialized HCT in the South Pacific covering 14 Pacific Island countries. These are also the countries covered by UN RCs and UNCTs based in Fiji and Samoa. The objective of the PHT is to support the Governments of the Pacific to prepare for, and mount a timely, consistent and coordinated response. The PHT has been endorsed as a coordinating body by the IASC and is itself organized through regional clusters in support of national coordination mechanisms.

"BRIDGING" MECHANISMS

Clusters are the IASC-managed organizational groupings of operational agencies, both UN and non-UN, in each of the main sectors of humanitarian action. Clusters operate at the global and country levels to support national Governments in managing international assistance.



At the global level, clusters are responsible for strengthening system-wide preparedness and coordinating technical capacity to respond to humanitarian emergencies in their

INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS: SOME USEFUL DISTINCTIONS

1. HC vs. RC

The HC supports coordination of humanitarian operations among all international actors - UN and non-UN. The RC supports coordination of development operations among UN actors only.

2. HCT vs. UNCT

Whereas the UNCT includes the heads of all UN agencies plus IOM, the HCT comprises only heads of the UN's humanitarian agencies, as well as non-UN humanitarian actors (i.e. NGOs and the RCRC Movement). The UNCT focuses on the UN's support for national development programmes, while the HCT addresses strategic issues of the wider humanitarian community.

Note: Like the HC and RC functions, the UNCT and HCT coexist; they do not replace each other. The RC or HC is responsible for ensuring complementarity between the two entities.

3. HCT vs. Clusters

The HCT provides strategic and policy guidance to the overall response effort, whereas country-level clusters implement the strategy by coordinating operational response efforts in their respective areas of expertise. Country cluster lead agencies are members of the HCT.

respective sectors. At the country level, clusters ensure that humanitarian organizations' activities are coordinated and serve as a first point of call for the Government, the UN RC and the HC. To the extent possible, clusters mirror national response structures¹⁸, use terminology that is close or identical to that of the national sectors, and are co-chaired by Government representatives. Where required, country-level clusters can be established at the onset of a disaster and may or may not remain following the initial phases of response based on in-country assessment of continued need.

Globally, nine clusters have been established with designated Cluster Leads Agencies that are accountable to the IASC. At the country level, the clusters are led by country-level representatives accountable to the UN RC or the HC. However, cluster lead agencies at the country level need not be the same agency as the sector's Global Cluster Lead. Instead, cluster leadership should be based on the local context and capacities of agencies already on the ground. The structure of clusters at the country level should also be adapted to local needs. Similarly, sub-national clusters may be established where required, and once again, the local cluster leads need not be the same as those designated at country level. Uniquely in the Pacific, the PHT is a regional cluster arrangement that supports national coordination arrangements.

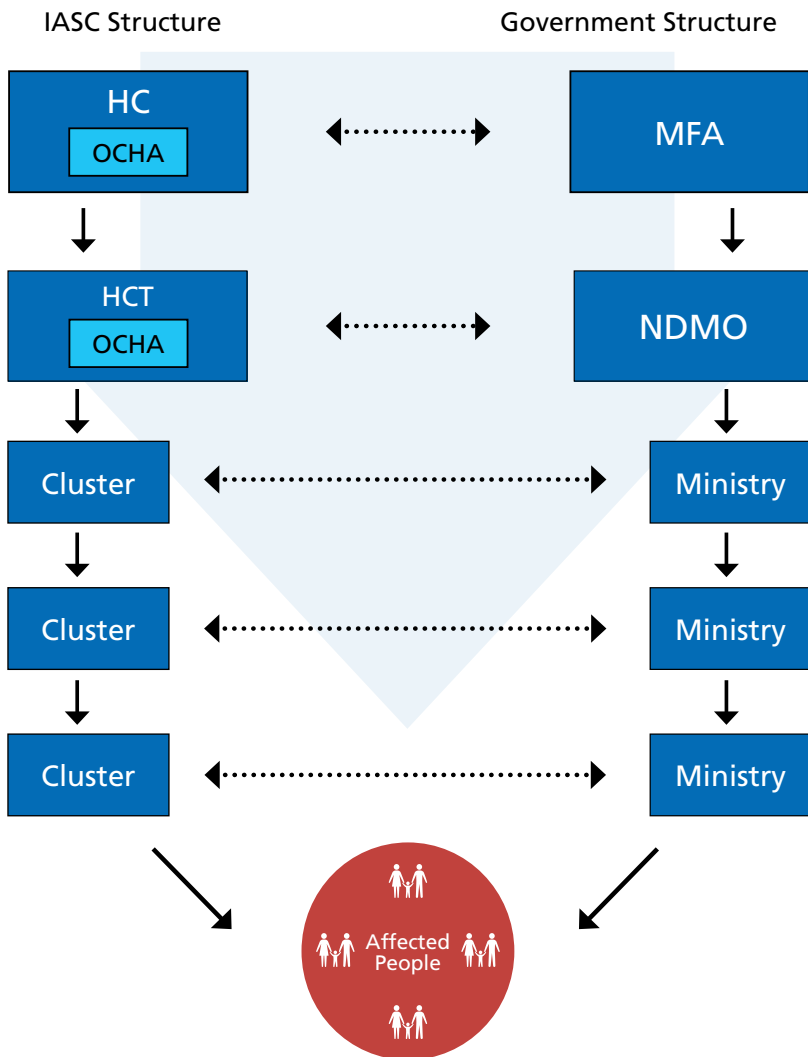
HOW DO CLUSTERS WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

In-country clusters support the response needs of Governments through hand-in-hand support to line ministries. In-country clusters are accessed through the HC, the HCT or Cluster Lead organizations. Regional and global cluster work is accessed through OCHA-ROAP at ocha-roap@un.org

¹⁸ Some clusters that are established to coordinate common services such as logistics and emergency telecommunications may not have national counterparts to complement.

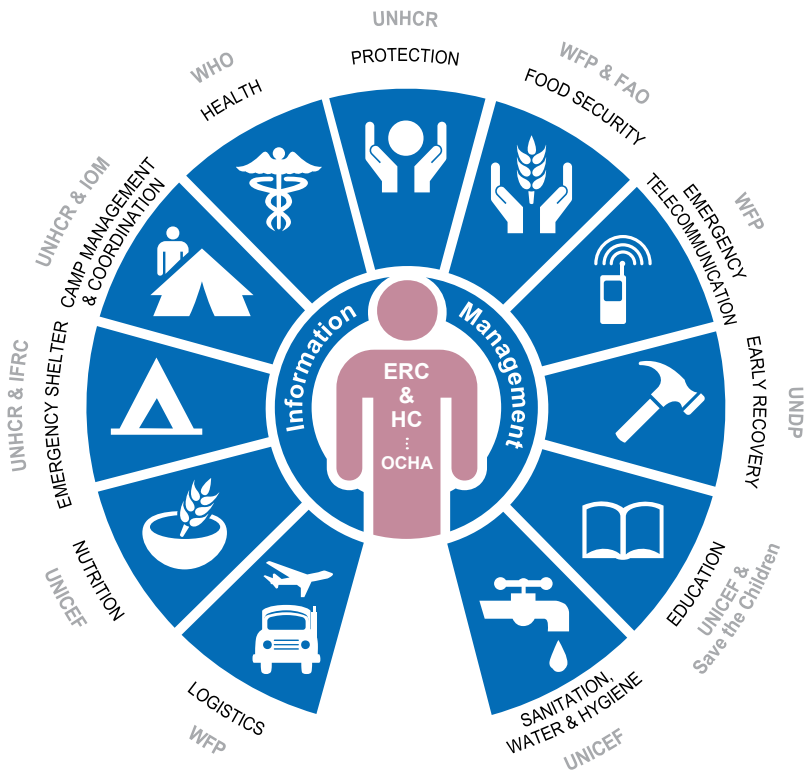
In the Asia-Pacific Region, clusters and cluster-like structures are currently active in Bangladesh, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

HCT Coordination and Interface with Government



- HC Humanitarian Coordinator
- MFA Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- HCT Humanitarian Country Team
- NDMO National Disaster Management Organization

Clusters



DO CLUSTERS ALWAYS LOOK THE SAME IN EVERY COUNTRY?

There is wide diversity in how clusters are activated and de-activated at country levels. The Guidance Note on [Using the Cluster Approach to Strengthen Humanitarian Response](#) exists, but does not call for activation of clusters in every instance. In certain emergency situations, only some clusters are activated; others, additional sub-clusters are required to address the breadth of coordination needs. While UN and NGOs are designated as cluster leads at the global level, clusters may be led by other organizations, including Government entities, at the country and local levels.

Country-level clusters are generally activated for the first time in emergency situations, but clusters can exist in varying forms before, during and after a disaster. For example, in the Philippines, clusters were introduced to respond to large-scale floods in 2006. However, due to recurrent disasters in the country and a resurgence of armed conflict in Mindanao in 2008, the Government was encouraged to institutionalize the coordination approach via a national decree. As a result, clusters are now a permanent coordination mechanism in the country, managed by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (NDRRM) Council. The NDRRM Council is composed of Government line ministries, but will soon include five national NGOs and the Philippines Red Cross National Society. Representatives of Government entities function as the cluster leads in the country.¹⁹

¹⁹ Please see earlier text box on the unique regional cluster coordination mechanism for the Pacific.

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is an Office of the UN Secretariat that provides institutional support to the ERC at the global level and UN RCs and HCs at country level to coordinate humanitarian action, advocate for the rights of people in need, develop humanitarian policy and analysis, manage humanitarian information systems and oversee humanitarian pooled funds. OCHA is headquartered in Geneva and New York with a strong presence at the regional and country levels in Asia and the Pacific:



1. **OCHA Regional Office in Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)** is located in Bangkok. It provides support to 36 countries in South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific.
2. **OCHA Regional Office for the Pacific (ROP)** is based in Fiji. It supports 14 Pacific Island countries under the leadership of two UN RCs in Fiji and Samoa. In addition, it provides support to the PHT.
3. OCHA maintains **Country Offices** c. in Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Indonesia, Pakistan and the Philippines, providing support to the Humanitarian Coordinators and the local HCTs.
4. **Humanitarian Advisory Teams (HATs)** d. are small OCHA presences in support of Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators, and are located in Nepal, Bangladesh and Japan.

HOW DOES OCHA WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

UN RCs and HCs are a Government's first point of contact with the international humanitarian system. OCHA typically supports UN RCs through its regional offices and HCs through a country office or, in some cases, through a HAT. Increasingly, OCHA also works directly with relevant Government counterparts, particularly NDMOs, to provide support to government-led emergency coordination, preparedness activities, and/or capacity building. OCHA also provides support to regional organizations that have humanitarian mandates.

REMEMBER

The coordination mechanisms described here are more effective in a previously arranged coordinated context. Therefore, Governments are encouraged to contact potential partners before the onset of an emergency.



This section describes some of the most important international tools and services available for disaster response in Asia and the Pacific.

As previously explained, the primary responders in any emergency are disaster-affected communities and their Governments. International tools and services are **only** activated when disaster response needs exceed national capacities and an affected Government requests and/or accepts international assistance.

This section covers international tools and services across four areas:

A. TECHNICAL TEAM MOBILIZATION

B. TECHNICAL SERVICES MOBILIZATION

C. FINANCIAL RESOURCES MOBILIZATION

D. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND ASSESSMENTS



HOW TO READ THIS SECTION?

There is a short description of each tool and service, followed by two call outs in green bold: [1] Who is it for? [2] How is it accessed?

WHO IS IT FOR?

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?



A tag on the left margin shows whether the tool or service is directly available to national Governments or are meant to be accessed by international and/or non-governmental humanitarian actors.

A. TECHNICAL TEAM MOBILIZATION

A range of international technical teams can be mobilized within hours of a disaster to support a Government's relief efforts. Described here are the purpose, composition and activation modalities of (a) bilateral, (b) intergovernmental and (c) RCRC Movement. These teams are generally deployed in large- and sometimes medium-scale disasters. They exist in addition to the many sector-specific technical teams deployed by Governments, clusters, and other individual agencies and are designed to complement their work.

BILATERAL

1. Urban Search and Rescue teams
2. Bilateral Technical Response teams

INTERGOVERNMENTAL

1. UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination teams
2. ASEAN Emergency Rapid Assessment teams
3. Joint OCHA/UNEP Environment unit

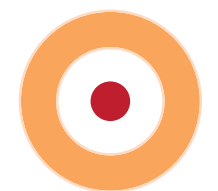
- ▶ Declaration of emergency by affected Government
- ▶ Request for and/or acceptance of international assistance by affected Government
- ▶ Potential deployment of FACT, RDRT, and ERU teams
- ▶ Potential deployment of USAR, ERAT and UNDAC teams
- ▶ Potential MCDA deployments
- ▶ APHP and IHP modules deployed if requested; remain for three to 12 months
- ▶ IFRC DREF and INGO seed funding available
- ▶ UN situation reports produced

- ▶ Potential appointment of HC
- ▶ Cluster Response Planning initiated
- ▶ HIC set up
- ▶ MIRA Phase I: Preliminary Scenario Definition (PSD) completed
- ▶ Creation of ICRC Family Links Network

- ▶ Dispatch from UNHRD
- ▶ Initial CERF allocation
- ▶ Launch of Flash Appeal
- ▶ USAR medium and heavy teams exit between 7 to 10 days after deployment

- ▶ UN OCHA Emergency Cash Grant can be dispersed within 10 days
- ▶ MIRA Phase II: Report completed
- ▶ FACT teams exit between 2 to 4 weeks after deployment
- ▶ UNDAC teams exit 3 weeks after deployment

- ▶ 2nd CERF allocation
- ▶ Revised Flash Appeal



Emergency



..... 12 - 48 hours



..... 72 hours



..... 1 week






..... 2-3 weeks



4-6 weeks

Available tools and services by scale of disaster
(as requested by affected Government)

Emergency scales			
	Small 	Medium 	Large 
TECHNICAL TEAM MOBILIZATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ USAR "Light" ▶ RDRT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ USAR "Medium" ▶ ERAT ▶ UNDAC ▶ RDRT ▶ ERU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ USAR "Heavy" ▶ ERAT ▶ UNDAC ▶ FACT ▶ RDRT ▶ ERU
TECHNICAL SERVICES MOBILIZATION		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ MCDA ▶ APHP ▶ UNHRD Network ▶ INGO seed money 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ MCDA ▶ IHP ▶ UNHRD Network ▶ INGO seed money
FINANCIAL RESOURCE MOBILIZATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ UN OCHA Emergency Cash Grants ▶ IFRC DREF as grant ▶ INGO seed money 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ UN Flash Appeal ▶ CERF ▶ UN OCHA Emergency Cash Grants ▶ IFRC DREF as start-up loans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ UN Flash Appeal ▶ CERF ▶ UN OCHA Emergency Cash Grants ▶ IFRC DREF as start-up loans
EMERGENCY COORDINATION		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Humanitarian Coordinator ▶ Clusters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Humanitarian Coordinator ▶ Clusters
COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTING			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ UN OCHA SitRep ▶ CDAC
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT & ASSESSMENTS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ MIRA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ HIC ▶ MIRA ▶ PDNA-RF

RCRC MOVEMENT

1. RCRC Regional Disaster Response Teams
2. RCRC Field Assessment and Coordination Teams
3. RCRC Emergency Response Units

BILATERAL

Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) are composed of trained experts who provide rescue and medical assistance in an emergency. USAR teams that deploy internationally generally comprise expert personnel, specialized equipment and search dogs. They can be operational within 24 to 48 hours of a disaster. USAR teams are offered and received bilaterally and/or with the coordination support of the OCHA-managed International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG). The advantage of working with INSARAG to receive international USAR teams is that their precise capacities and capabilities are specified through an INSARAG External Classification (IEC) and the teams work according to internationally-agreed standards and modalities.

Additionally, there are two complementary coordination mechanisms that support INSARAG's USAR deployments:

Virtual On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (Virtual OSOCC) is a global online network and information portal that facilitates data exchange between disaster responders and affected countries before, during and after sudden-onset disasters. It is the first place to look to see if a Government is requesting search-and-rescue support, and to track the arrival and position of different USAR teams.



On-Site Operations Coordination Center (OSOCC) is a physical facility established in the USAR-requesting country to receive incoming and support inter-USAR coordination. At the OSOCC, international relief teams are registered and receive basic information about the situation, the operations of national and international responders, and logistical arrangements.



WHO ARE THEY FOR?

USAR teams support the search-and-rescue efforts of national Governments, particularly in urban settings where there are collapsed structures.

HOW ARE THEY ACCESSED?

A Government seeking assistance in activating international USAR teams through INSARAG can do so through a pre-identified INSARAG National Focal Point or directly through the INSARAG secretariat at insarag@un.org. Account access to the [Virtual OSOCC can be requested here](#). Further information about OSOCC is available through OCHA ROAP at ocha-roap@un.org

Bilateral technical response teams are emergency teams deployed by assisting Governments to make an initial assessment of needs for contributions to the affected Government and/or to UN agencies, the RCRC Movement, and NGOs. Some key bilateral technical response teams active in Asia and the Pacific include the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)'s Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)'s Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department (CHASE), Japan International

Cooperation Agency's (JICA) Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Team, European Community Humanitarian Office's (ECHO) Civil Protection Team and Rapid Response Team.

WHO ARE THEY FOR?

The majority of these bilateral technical response teams are designed to support the assisting (donor) Government in making a decision on what type of support to provide during an emergency response. Some, such as Japan's JDR team, also provide search and rescue, medical and other technical support.

HOW ARE THEY ACCESSED?

More information on these bilateral technical response teams can be attained from the embassies of the respective countries.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "LIGHT", "MEDIUM" AND "HEAVY" USAR TEAMS?

According to INSARAG's classification system, USAR teams are classified in three categories: light, medium and heavy.

1. **LIGHT USAR TEAMS** have the operational capability to assist with surface search and rescue in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. Light USAR teams are not normally recommended for international deployment.
2. **MEDIUM USAR TEAMS** have the operational capability to conduct technical search-and-rescue operations in structural-collapse incidents. Medium USAR teams are required to be able to search for trapped people. International Medium USAR teams travelling to an affected country should be operational in the affected country within 32 hours of when the disaster was posted on the Virtual OSOCC. A medium team must be adequately staffed to allow for 24-hour operations at one site for up to seven days.
3. **HEAVY USAR TEAMS** have the operational capability for difficult and complex technical search-and-rescue operations. Heavy USAR teams are required to be able to search for trapped people and use canine and technical systems. They are also required to provide international assistance in disasters resulting in the collapse of multiple structures, typically in urban settings, when national response capacity has either been overwhelmed or does not have the required capability. International heavy USAR teams travelling to an affected country should be operational in the affected country within 48 hours of when the disaster was posted on the Virtual OSOCC. A heavy team must be adequately resourced to allow for 24-hour operations at two separate sites for up to 10 days.

Source: INSARAG Guidelines.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL

UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) teams are standby teams of specially-trained international disaster management professionals from UN Member States, UN agencies and other disaster response organizations that can be deployed within 12 to 48 hours of a disaster. The primary elements of the UNDAC mandate are assessment, coordination and information management. UNDAC teams are self-



sufficient in telecommunications, office and personal equipment. An UNDAC team normally stays in the affected area for the initial response phase, which can be up to three weeks.

WHO ARE THEY FOR?

UNDAC teams are deployed to support Governments and international aid organizations. An UNDAC team's deployment is free of charge. Team members are funded through pre-arranged agreements with UNDAC member agencies and Governments.

HOW ARE THEY ACCESSED?

An UNDAC team is deployed at the request of an affected Government, the UN RC or the HC. An UNDAC team can be requested through OCHA at +41-(0)22-917-1600, undac_alert@un.org, or through OCHA-ROAP at +66(0) 2288 2611 or at ocha-roap@un.org.

AN UNDAC TEAM CAN BE DEPLOYED EVEN IF THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT ISSUE A GENERAL REQUEST FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE: THE CASE OF JAPAN

Following the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, the Government of Japan requested a specialized UNDAC team even though it did not request more general international assistance.

Deployed within 48 hours, the seven-member UNDAC team provided emergency support operations based out of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) office in Tokyo over a period of 10 days. The UNDAC team's terms of reference requested by the Government of Japan were as follows:

1. To report to the international community on the emergency situation.
2. To advise the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on how to respond to the numerous offers of assistance.
3. To assist, from Tokyo, in coordinating the international USAR teams deployed to Japan.

A WORD ON UNDAC TECHNICAL PARTNERSHIPS

UNDAC teams work with a number of technical NGOs and other partners to ensure rapid deployment and self-sufficiency. Examples include UNDAC partnerships with [Télécoms Sans Frontières](#) for telecommunications, with [MapAction](#) for on-site mapping services, with [DHL](#) for airport logistics and with [UNOSAT](#) for satellite imagery.

ASEAN Emergency Rapid Assessment Teams (ERAT) are a pool of trained and rapidly deployable (within 24 hours) experts on emergency assessment, for disasters in ASEAN countries. The purpose of the ASEAN ERAT is to assist NDMOs in the earliest phase of an emergency in a variety of areas including (a) conducting rapid assessments; (b) estimating the scale, severity and impact of the disaster through a damage assessment and needs analysis; (c) gathering information and reporting on the immediate needs of affected people; and (d) coordinating with the AHA Centre for the mobilization, response and deployment of regional disaster management assets, capacities and humanitarian goods and assistance to the disaster-affected areas.



ASEAN ERAT members consist of trained NDMOs and related ministries staff from within the 10 ASEAN Member States enabling stronger collaboration with affected ASEAN Member States' government and communities.

WHO ARE THEY FOR?

ASEAN-ERAT are deployed to support disaster-affected ASEAN Member States.

HOW ARE THEY ACCESSED?

The ASEAN-ERAT deployment is free of charge. ERATs are deployed through a request to the ASEAN AHA Centre at info@ahacentre.org, or at +62 21 2305006 or through the ASEAN National Focal Point.

Joint OCHA/UNEP Environment Unit is the UN emergency response mechanism that provides international assistance to countries facing environmental emergencies. Environmental emergency specialists, such as chemists, water management experts, geologists and engineers, can be deployed individually or as part of a larger UNDAC team. These specialists work with national agencies and often the military to identify and prioritize environmental risks using the Flash Environmental Assessment Tool (FEAT). Specialized equipment for detecting hazardous materials and onsite sampling and analysis can be mobilized through its HazMat Module (Singapore) and Mobile Laboratory (Netherlands).



WHO ARE THEY FOR?

Joint OCHA/UNEP Environment Units are deployed to support Governments.

HOW ARE THEY ACCESSED?

Support for an environmental emergency and/or a natural disaster with secondary environmental consequences can be requested by a Government through pre-identified JEU National Focal Points, or through the Environmental Emergency Notification/Request for International Assistance form, which is on the [OCHA/UNEP website](#).

RCRC MOVEMENT

Regional Disaster Response Teams (RDRTs) are trained regional response teams composed of National Society staff and volunteers who can be deployed within 24 to 48 hours of a disaster to bring assistance to National Societies in neighbouring countries. RDRTs aim to promote the building of regional capacities in disaster management. The



primary functions of RDRT members are as follows:

1. To undertake primary assessments
2. To develop operational planning
3. To conduct relief management

Field Assessment Coordination Teams (FACT) are rapidly deployable teams comprising RCRC Movement disaster assessment managers who support National Societies and IFRC field offices. FACT members have technical expertise in relief, logistics, health, nutrition, public health and epidemiology, psychological support, water and sanitation, and finance and administration. FACTs are on standby and can be deployed anywhere in the world within 12 to 24 hours for two to four weeks.



Emergency Response Units (ERUs) are teams of trained technical specialists mandated to give immediate support to National Societies in disaster-affected countries. They provide specific support or direct services when local facilities are destroyed, overwhelmed by need or do not exist. ERUs work closely with FACT. The teams use pre-packed sets of standardized equipment and are designed to be self-sufficient for one month. ERUs can be deployed within 24 to 72 hours and can operate for up to four months.



WHO ARE THEY FOR?

All three technical teams are deployed to support National Societies, IFRC and Governments of disaster-affected countries.

HOW ARE THEY ACCESSED?

Information about the teams can be accessed through National Societies and IFRC.

HOW CAN GOVERNMENTS MANAGE INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL TEAMS DEPLOYMENT?

One of the main challenges for disaster-affected Governments in the initial hours and days of an emergency is managing numerous offers of assistance, including offers to deploy USAR and other technical response teams. In the midst of a crisis, it can be difficult for Governments to evaluate what is and is not required. It can also be difficult to say turn down offers of assistance.

It is important for states to remember that while “medium” and “heavy” USAR teams can be critical to search and rescue in larger-scale disasters, “light” teams are generally responsible for the highest percentage of live-saving activities in an emergency. This is because, light teams are locally based and they can immediately start operating when the disaster strikes. Generally speaking, international USAR teams (“medium” and “heavy” teams) should only be accepted if they can be operational within 36 hours of a disaster, which is the critical window within which most lives can actually be saved.

For this reason, it is important for national Governments to think ahead about the types of disaster risk they face and evaluate the types of technical assistance they might wish to accept as a result, from whom and in what order of priority. Some teams can be requested to arrive in anticipation of an expected need, for example if it is known that there will be a typhoon affecting a certain area or population.

It can also be useful for Governments to request UNDAC (or ASEAN ERAT) teams to manage the process of accepting or declining international offers of assistance on their behalf. In that way, Government officials can focus on delivering assistance to affected people through the national response resources.

REMEMBER

1. Disaster-affected States should develop detailed preparedness plans so that they know the number and types of USAR and other technical response teams that they are likely to accept in a disaster situation.
2. Disaster-affected States are encouraged to work with international technical entities to agree on the composition, terms of reference and period of activation of technical teams.
3. In addition to the teams described here, some global clusters have rapid response teams composed of regionally based experts such as child protection and GBV advisors that can be deployed rapidly.

B. TECHNICAL SERVICES MOBILIZATION

In addition to technical teams deployable in an emergency, there are technical services that can be triggered to support national Governments and international organizations in their response. For the purposes of the guide, technical services include everything from pre-positioned supplies to communications technology packages to emergency surge rosters. The technical services described in this section are organized according to three areas: (a) relief assets and stockpiles; (b) technical networks and manuals; and (c) standby and surge rosters.

RELIEF ASSETS AND STOCKPILES

1. Military and Civil Defence Assets
2. International Humanitarian Partnership
3. Asia-Pacific Humanitarian Partnership
4. UN Humanitarian Response Depot Network

TECHNICAL NETWORKS

1. ICRC Family Links Network

STANDBY AND SURGE ROSTERS

1. OCHA Emergency Response Roster and Associate Surge Pool
2. Emergency Telecommunications Cluster and Logistics Cluster surge rosters
3. NORCAP, ProCap, GenCAP and ACAPS

RELIEF ASSETS AND STOCKPILES

Military and Civil-Defence Assets (MCDA) are uniformed assets and services contributed by foreign military and civil-defence organizations for humanitarian assistance. They include relief personnel, equipment (e.g. air, ground and sea transport, communication equipment), and supplies and services (e.g. medical support, security services). MCDA are provided at no cost to the affected State and/or to the United Nations, unless otherwise regulated by international agreement.

MCDA that are deployed through a central request to support UN agencies are called UN MCDA. MCDA and UN MCDA are governed by individual Status of Forces Agreements between two countries and/or by the *Oslo Guidelines on the Use of Foreign Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief*.

WHO ARE THEY FOR?

MCDA are for affected States. UN MCDA are for UN agencies operating in support of affected States.

HOW ARE THEY ACCESSED?

With the expressed consent of the affected State, MCDA can also be requested through the UN RC or the HC.

THE USE OF MILITARY ASSETS IN DISASTERS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC: SOME KEY PRINCIPLES

MCDA should be seen as tools that complement existing relief mechanisms in response to the humanitarian gap between the needs that the relief community is being asked to satisfy and the resources available to meet them.

MCDA can be mobilized and deployed bilaterally or under regional or international alliance agreements as “other deployed forces” or as part of a United Nations operation as “UN MCDA”. All disaster relief, including MCDA, should be provided at the request or with the consent of the affected State and, in principle, on the basis of an appeal for international assistance.

An assisting State deciding to employ its MCDA should bear in mind the cost/benefit ratio of such operations as compared with other alternatives, if available. In principle, MCDA should be requested only as a last resort, and the costs involved in using MCDA on disaster relief missions abroad should not be diverted from those available for international relief and development activities.²⁰

²⁰ As noted in the Oslo Guidelines and APC-MADRO.

International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP) is an informal network of seven governmental organisations in Europe working in support of emergency operations on a daily basis. IHP has a strong capacity to support the United Nations, the European Union and other international organisations. A large variety of IHP standardised modules - from small Information Communication Technology (ICT) modules and Information Management (IM) support to large base camps and humanitarian compounds. Other examples for IHP modules are vehicles support or security equipment, as well as supporting the establishment of a Humanitarian Information Centre (HIC). IHP is open for requests for support outside of their modular system. Contributing countries include, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Norway, Sweden and UK.



Asia-Pacific Humanitarian Partnership (APHP) is a regionally based multinational technical arrangement designed to strengthen the response of humanitarian agencies. Like the IHP, it is primarily for UN agencies and UNDAC teams, as well as the IFRC and ASEAN. Basic modules (e.g. laptops, telecommunications equipment, tents and generators) can be mobilized within six hours for two to four weeks and come with fully trained support staff. Larger and more complex modules (e.g. light base camps and environmental support) can be mobilized within one to two days. Countries in Asia and the Pacific contributing to the APHP with support modules positioned nationally are Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore and South Korea. Télécoms Sans Frontières is an NGO partner.



WHO ARE THEY FOR?

IHP and APHP are primarily for UN agencies and UNDAC teams but can also be used by the RCRC Movement, Regional organizations and Governments, as requested.

HOW ARE THEY ACCESSED?

IHP and APHP can be accessed through the IHP secretariat in Geneva at +41 (0) 79 477 0812 or through OCHA ROAP at ocha-roap@un.org

Examples of recent IHP/APHP module support in Asia and the Pacific		
Country	Disaster	Type
Nepal	2008 Koshi River floods	ICT Support Module
Indonesia	2009 Sumatra earthquake	ICT Support Module; Light Base Camp; OOSS Module
Pakistan	2010 floods	Base Camp; Water Purification
Philippines	2012 typhoon Bopha	ICT Support Module

UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) Network supports the strategic stockpiling efforts of UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations to respond to emergencies. The UNHRD in Asia and the Pacific is located in Subang, Malaysia, and managed by WFP. It forms part of a global network of UNHRD hubs.



UNHRD Subang holds strategic reserves of emergency non-food relief goods, including medical kits, shelter items, IT equipment and other materials designed to assist the emergency response. A UNHRD shipment is normally dispatched within five to seven days following a request. Warehousing, storage, and inspection and handling of relief items are free of charge to users. UNHRD also provides additional services at cost, such as procurement, transport, technical assistance, insurance, repackaging and kitting.

AHA Centre, through its Emergency Stockpile established under the auspice of Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN located in Subang, Malaysia provides relief items to affected Member States during emergencies. ASEAN Member States can request relief items through the AHA Centre in Jakarta, Indonesia.

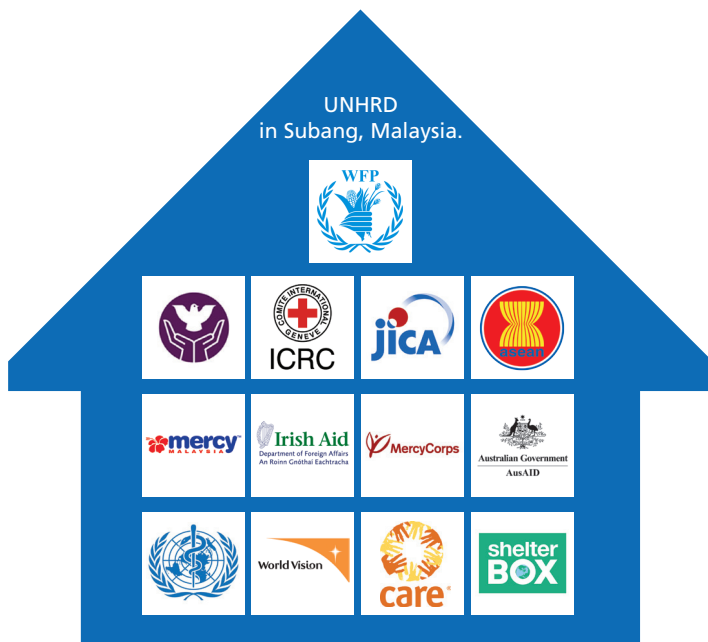
WHO IS IT FOR?

There are currently 11 users of the Subang UNHRD facility: ASEAN, AusAID, CARE, Irish Aid, JICA, Mercy Corps, MERCY Malaysia, Norwegian Church Aid, Swiss Red Cross and Shelterbox. WFP, WHO and World Vision International are expected to stockpile goods at the facility in 2013.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Items from the UNHRD network can be requested for dispatch by the UN RC or HC, or by UN agencies, other international organizations, Governments, and NGOs that have signed a technical agreement with UNHRD. More information about UNHRD in Subang can be accessed through the WFP Coordinator at wfp.subang@wfp.org.

UNHRD in Subang, Malaysia.



* ASEAN is scheduled to stockpile relief items at UNHRD by March 2013; AusAID is also preparing to stockpile at UNHCR in 2013.

TECHNICAL NETWORKS AND MANUALS

ICRC Family Links Network is the primary global framework for restoring family links in the aftermath of a disaster. Restoring Family Links (RFL) is the general term given to a range of activities that aim to prevent the separation of families and the disappearance of family members, to restore and maintain contact among families and to clarify the fate of persons who have been reported missing. The Family Links Network consists of the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency (CTA), tracing services of National Societies, and the tracing agencies of governments.



WHO IS IT FOR?

The ICRC Family Links Network is for disaster-affected families with a missing relative.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

In-country family links support can be accessed through National Societies. ICRC also maintains a [FamilyLinks website](#).

STANDBY AND SURGE ROSTERS

In addition to the external technical teams that it manages, OCHA has a variety of internal surge staffing mechanisms by which staff can be deployed to address critical new or unforeseen humanitarian needs in the field. Deployments typically involve establishing new OCHA presences or reinforcing existing offices during escalating crises.

In small and medium emergencies, surge support is generally provided by Regional Office staff, who have local knowledge, a broad range of skills (i.e. information management, public information, civil-military coordination and reporting) and the necessary equipment to support them in the field. In larger emergencies Headquarters-managed rosters will be used to ensure a transition from initial regional surge to medium- to longer-term support.

1. **Emergency Response Roster (ERR):** a. The ERR is OCHA's main internal mechanism for short-term deployment of staff to larger emergencies. Some 35 OCHA staff are on the roster at any one time, and can be deployed within days for up to six weeks²¹. All of the regular profiles found in OCHA field offices can be sourced through the ERR.
2. **Associates Surge Pool (ASP):** b. The ASP was developed to bridge the gap between immediate surge and the arrival of regular staffing. The ASP is composed of pre-cleared 'externals' who can be quickly recruited and deployed. The average ASP deployment is three to six months.

WFP manages two common service clusters that provide important technical standby and surge capacities to humanitarian organizations from the onset of an emergency. These are the **Emergency Telecommunications Cluster** and the **Logistics Cluster**.

1. **Emergency Telecommunications Cluster** provides in-country inter-agency telecommunications infrastructure, services and expertise for humanitarian organizations in an emergency.
2. **Logistics Cluster** deploys logistics response teams to emergencies to assume an initial logistics coordination role for humanitarian organizations.



²¹ Exceptionally, deployment can be extended to a maximum three months.

WHO ARE THEY FOR?

In-country telecommunications and logistics support through the WFP-led global clusters are for humanitarian organizations. Representatives from aid organizations interested in participating in ICT or logistics coordination and information sharing can attend local working group meetings.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Information about both clusters is available through the WFP Regional Office at wfp.bkk@wfp.org or through the cluster websites (see above).

The UN and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs have established a number of standby and surge capacities to reinforce technical expertise in emergencies. The largest general surge roster is called the **Norwegian Refugee Council's Standby Roster (NORCAP)**. It provides expertise in everything from protection and emergency education, to logistics and engineering through rapid deployment of professional and experienced personnel. In addition to NORCAP, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) also manages the following thematic standby and surge rosters:

1. **The Protection Standby Capacity Roster (ProCap)** a. responds to priority gaps and needs in emergency protection response at the country level.
2. **The Gender Standby Capacity Roster (GenCap)** b. builds the capacity of humanitarian actors at country level to mainstream gender equality programming, including prevention and response to gender-based violence, in all sectors of humanitarian response.
3. **The Assessment Capacities Project (ACAPS)** is an assessment standby capacity that provides accessible expertise, timely data and analysis to inform decision-making by national Governments and IASC HCTs.

WHO ARE THEY FOR?

NORCAP, ProCap, GenCap and ACAPS teams are generally deployed as a resource for local HCTs and in support of the HC. They are often hosted by UNHCR, UNICEF, OHCHR, OCHA and/or other agencies. ACAPS' assessment expertise has also been deployed to support national Governments.

HOW ARE THEY ACCESSED?

NORCAP, ProCap, GenCap and ACAPS are managed by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) on behalf of the Government of Norway and the United Nations. Information about the rosters can be accessed at [NORCAP](#) and all queries can be addressed to scs@un.org.

REMEMBER

Many technical services are designed to reinforce the emergency response capacities of UN and other international agencies. However, these packages are flexible, and national Governments are encouraged to reach out to technical entities to explore preparedness arrangements for direct support as well.

C. FINANCIAL RESOURCES MOBILIZATION

“Fast money” is a critical tool in kick-starting response at the onset of a disaster. This section describes international financial resource tools that can be mobilized to support immediate life-saving and relief efforts. The purpose of these mechanisms is to disperse funds quickly based on initial assessments and response plans, while in-depth assessments and strategic planning are organized to mobilize larger sums of money for longer-term recovery.

This section also describes the international strategic planning and resource mobilization tools used in sudden-onset and protracted crises, namely the Flash Appeal and the Consolidated Appeal Process.

“FAST MONEY” MECHANISMS

The mechanisms described herein are multilateral mechanisms. National disaster funding, bilateral contributions and private donations are also central to rapid disaster response.

1. Central Emergency Response Fund
2. IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund
3. OCHA Emergency Cash Grant
4. UNDP TRAC 1.1.3 Category II Resources
5. Emergency Response Fund
6. ASEAN Disaster Management and Emergency Relief Fund
7. Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund

Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) is an OCHA-managed UN fund intended to kick start emergency humanitarian assistance. The CERF comprises both a US\$ 450 million grant element and a US\$30 million loan facility. The grant element is subdivided into a rapid response window and an underfunded emergencies window. Rapid response grants are provided to support critical, life-saving activities in sudden-onset disasters and situations of acute need, as well as other time-critical interventions not funded by other sources.²²



As a guideline, CERF rapid response funding does not exceed US\$30 million per country per emergency, although the ERC can offer funding beyond this amount if s/he believes it is necessary. In most instances, the CERF rapid response provision aims to be about 10 per cent of the total funding requested in a Flash Appeal. However, the CERF does not depend on issuance of any Appeal.

WHO IS IT FOR?

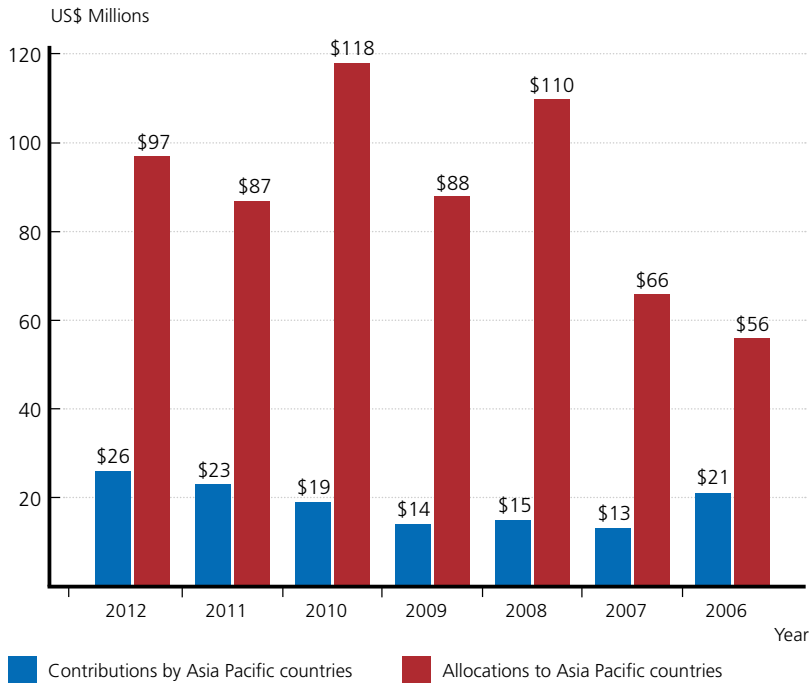
CERF funding can be granted to UN agencies and IOM only. Non-UN humanitarian partners, including NGOs and technical Government counterparts, can access CERF funding indirectly through sub-grants from CERF grant recipients.

²² For the purposes of this Guide, the rapid response facility is of most relevance. Allocations from the underfunded emergencies window are made twice a year and target activities in countries experiencing ongoing emergencies that have not been funded by other donors. Approximately one third of the CERF's grant facility is reserved for the underfunded emergencies window. The loan facility is used by UN agencies to borrow against forthcoming donor commitments.

HOW ARE THEY ACCESSED?

CERF rapid response grants are requested by the UN RC or HC on behalf of the Humanitarian Country Team. However, once allocated, contractual arrangements are made between CERF and the recipient agency directly. CERF rapid response grants are generally dispersed within two weeks of a request.

CERF contributions and allocation in Asia and the Pacific 2006-2012



IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is an emergency response fund that provides immediate financial support to Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, enabling them to carry out their unique role as first responders after a disaster. Allocations may be made as start-up loans in the case of large-scale disasters, as grants to meet the costs of responding to small-scale emergency relief operations, or for making preparations in the case of imminent disaster.



WHO IS IT FOR?

DREF is available to all 187 Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

IFRC reviews requests for DREF allocations on a case-by-case basis. Money can be authorized and released within 24 hours.

OCHA Emergency Cash Grant is an emergency relief grant that can be quickly dispersed in a sudden-onset disaster. The grant represents a relatively small amount of resources sourced from the UN regular budget and disbursed for pressing relief activities in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. The amount per allocation cannot exceed US\$100,000, although more than one allocation can be made per emergency. Funds are disbursed within 10 days and can be useful in funding specific, immediate, life-saving activities such as local procurement, logistics support and/or transporting relief items.



WHO IS IT FOR?

Emergency cash grants are usually received by the UN RC or HC. The UN RC or HC may spend the funds directly or seek OCHA's concurrence for their transfer to national authorities or local NGOs.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Funds are requested by the UN RC or HC, or by the OCHA field office or regional office. A Government can also request an OCHA Emergency Cash Grant through its Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva or New York.

Emergency Response Fund (ERF)²³ is a country-based pooled fund managed by the HC with OCHA support. Typical grant sizes are between US\$100,000 and US\$250,000. There are currently 12 ERFs operating worldwide, two of which are in the Asia-Pacific region: Indonesia and Myanmar. The criteria for establishing an ERF are quite stringent and the Guidelines are available [here](#).



WHO ARE THEY FOR?

ERF grants can be provided to UN agencies and NGOs²⁴.

HOW ARE THEY ACCESSED?

ERF funds are managed by the HC with support from the OCHA office and under the advice of a selected Advisory Board, which may include UN agencies, IOM, NGOs and components of the RCRC Movement.

UNDP TRAC 1.1.3 Category II resources are available to coordinate an effective response to a sudden crisis (disaster or conflict), conduct needs assessments, initiate early recovery frameworks and establish solid foundations for sustainable recovery. Funds usually do not exceed US\$100,000 and need to be spent within 12 months.

WHO ARE THEY FOR?

UNDP TRAC 1.1.3 Category II resources are available internally to UNDP country programmes.

²³ The Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) is another country-based pooled fund that generally addresses critical humanitarian needs in protracted humanitarian crises. There are currently five CHFs, all of which are on the continent of Africa.

²⁴ In-country management of an ERF – including eligible grants recipients and funding priorities – is guided by a country strategy and may, therefore, vary from country to country.

HOW ARE THEY ACCESSED?

Requests are made by the UN RC in a simple proposal, accompanied by an OCHA situation report. This has to be then approved by the Head of UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) within 48 hours of a request

ASEAN Disaster Management and Emergency Relief Fund. The ADMER Fund serves as a pool of resources to support the implementation of AADMER Work Programme, for response in emergencies in ASEAN Member States, as well as for the operational activities of AHA Centre. It is open for voluntary contributions by the ASEAN Member States, other public and private sources, such as ASEAN Dialogue Partners and assisting (donor) governments. The ADMER Fund is administered by the ASEAN Secretariat through the ACDM. The ADMER Fund is a replenishment fund, not an endowment fund.

WHO ARE THEY FOR?

It is for ASEAN Member States.

HOW ARE THEY ACCESSED?

Further information is available from the ASEAN AHA Centre at info@ahacentre.org

Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund (APDRF) is a dedicated fund of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) designed to provide incremental grant resources to ADB developing member countries affected by a major natural disaster. The APDRF provides quick-disbursing grants to help countries meet immediate expenses to restore life-saving services to affected people following a declared disaster. Grants are provided in amounts of up to US\$3 million to national Governments. They may in turn allocate the funds to local government, government agencies, and other suitable national or international entities, including NGOs.



WHO IS IT FOR?

It is for ADB developing member countries.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Assistance is granted directly by ADB to national Governments and based on the following criteria:

1. A natural disaster has occurred in a developing member country.
2. An emergency has been officially declared and is of a scale beyond the capacity of the country and its own agencies to meet the immediate expenses necessary to restore life-saving services to affected people.
3. The UN Resident Coordinator has confirmed the scale of the disaster and indicated a general amount of funding that would be required.

Financial resource mechanisms. What is available to whom? A summary table			
Fund	Dispersed within	Who are the funds for?	Who initiates the process?
CERF	10 days to 2 weeks	UN agencies and IOM only.	UN RC and/or HC
IFRC DREF	24 hours	National Societies	National Societies and IFRC
OCHA Emergency Cash Grants	10 days	UN RC or HC, but may be transferred to national authorities or to localNGOs.	UN RC or HC, OCHA field office or regional office, or affected Governments (through Permanent Mission)
UNDP TRAC 1.1.3	7 days	UNDP	UN RC
ERF	5 days to 2 weeks	UN agencies and NGOs	HC
APDRF	4 to 5 days of eligibility criteria being met	ADB developing member countries	ADB and affected Governments

STRATEGIC AND FUNDRAISING TOOLS

UN Flash Appeal is an initial inter-agency humanitarian response strategy and resource mobilization tool based on a rapid appraisal of the disaster situation. The Flash Appeal identifies the common funding requirements of humanitarian actors for the earliest phase of the response, generally for the first three to six months. In cases where emergency response is required for more than six months or in a protracted emergency, the Flash Appeal is extended and transformed into a CAP.

WHO IS IT FOR?

The Flash Appeal can include projects from UN agencies, other international organizations, and NGOs. It may also include project partnerships with the RCRC Movement and/or National Society of the affected country. Government ministries cannot appeal for funds directly through a Flash Appeal, but may be partners identified in UN or NGO projects.

THE FLASH APPEAL IN ACTION: THE CASE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Following Tropical Storm Washi in the Philippines in 2011, the UN and humanitarian partners issued a Flash Appeal²⁵ calling for US\$ 28.6 million to support the Government of the Philippines to respond to the serious humanitarian needs caused by the storm. The Flash Appeal aimed to provide clean water for drinking and bathing, food, emergency, shelter, and essential household items to 471,000 of the worst affected people in Cagayan de Oro and Iligan cities for three months.²⁶

²⁵ Formally known as the *Emergency Revision of the Philippines Humanitarian Action Plan 2012*

²⁶ OCHA ROAP. *Humanitarian Funding Update*, Fourth Quarter, 2011.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

The Flash Appeal is initiated by the UN RC or HC in consultation with the HCT and with the support of the UNDAC team, if deployed. In countries without an existing OCHA presence, the nearest regional office and/or OCHA Headquarters supports development of the Flash Appeal.

Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) is an advocacy and financing tool that brings aid organizations together jointly to plan, coordinate, implement and monitor disaster response. It comprises a common humanitarian action plan and a portfolio of concrete projects necessary to implement that plan. It serves as an ongoing frame of reference and detailed work plan for large-scale, sustained humanitarian action. A Consolidated Appeal is generally launched when humanitarian needs extend beyond the period of a Flash Appeal (usually six months).



WHO IS IT FOR?

The CAP includes projects implemented by UN agencies, the RCRC Movement, IOM, and NGOs. Governments cannot seek money through the CAP, although it does encourage close cooperation between donors, humanitarian organizations, and host Governments. As with the Flash Appeal, Governments may be identified as partners in implementing specific projects.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

The CAP is accessed through the HC and HCT and is normally managed in-country through the OCHA office.

REMEMBER

1. While many “fast money” mechanisms are not directly available to affected States, Governments should work closely with the UN, the RCRC Movement and NGOs to ensure the appropriate use of these relief funds.
2. Bilateral fast track monies are also a very important source of funding available to affected Governments for initial life-saving activities. The amount and details of the funding vary and are generally negotiated on a case-by-case basis between assisting and affected Governments.

D. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND ASSESSMENTS

Managing information following a disaster is a crucial part of any humanitarian response. Strong information management requires agreed processes and trained personnel to collect, analyze and share information about a disaster situation. Affected people, affected Governments, humanitarian organizations and the media are all sources and users of information in an emergency.

Governments have their own mechanisms for sharing and managing information between emergency response-related agencies and ministries. This section explains how the international humanitarian community manages information in an emergency with a view to helping Governments better understand how the international community functions, and to identify key areas where Governments and international organizations can work together and share information.

The services and tools described below are organized according to the following categories: (a) overall information management; (b) satellite imagery and mapping; (c) and assessment tools.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

1. OCHA Information Management Units and the Humanitarian Information Centre

REPORTING TOOLS

1. OCHA Situation Report

HUMANITARIAN WEBSITES

1. ReliefWeb
2. HumanitarianResponse.info
3. Financial Tracking Service
4. ASEAN Disaster Information Network
5. South Asian Disaster Knowledge Network
6. Pacific Disaster Net

SATELLITE IMAGERY AND MAPPING SERVICE PROVIDERS

1. UNOSAT
2. UN-SPIDER
3. Sentinel Asia
4. International Space Charter
5. MapAction
6. iMMAP

ASSESSMENTS TOOLS

1. Multi-Cluster Initial Rapid Assessment
2. Post-Disaster Needs Assessment and Recovery Framework

WHAT DOES “INFORMATION MANAGEMENT” MEAN?

Humanitarian information management is defined as the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of information to support decision-making and coordination in an emergency.

1. **COLLECTION:** Data collection can take many forms, from needs assessments to remote sensing to a review of baseline data.
2. **PROCESSING:** Sufficient time and skilled staff must be allocated for data to be processed. For example, before 200 assessment questionnaires can be analysed and used for planning, they must be checked and entered into a database.
3. **ANALYSIS:** In an emergency, analysis is usually limited to summarizing information, prioritizing and learning something new. Decision makers require analysis that summarizes a large volume of information and points out key aspects of the emergency situation.
4. **DISSEMINATION:** Information needs to be communicated clearly and effectively to a wide audience using the appropriate medium, whether in an e-mail, a report, a map, a briefing or a website.

Preparedness in information management is critical to its effectiveness in an emergency. Preparedness measures can include: collecting key baseline data; establishing an information management network, including NDMOs, national statistics offices, national mapping agencies, OCHA and cluster lead agencies; ensuring that information management is addressed in the contingency plan; and developing a full needs-assessment methodology.

OVERALL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

OCHA Information Management Unit (IMU) and the Humanitarian Information Centre (HIC). In most countries where there are ongoing emergency responses, there is also usually an OCHA country office that also has a dedicated information management capacity, normally in the form of an IMU. This includes technical staff who serve as an information service for the humanitarian community by developing and promoting common standards that enable data exchange between organizations. They consolidate this information to provide an overview of the humanitarian response. They also provide technical support to initiatives such as needs assessments, and publish information products such as contacts lists, meeting schedules and maps. The OCHA-IMU works in close collaboration with information management focal points in Government and in the Cluster lead agencies to aggregate information and provide an overall view of the emergency response. To facilitate this exchange of data, an Information Management Network is often formed which includes IM staff from OCHA, key Government agencies (NDMO, National Statistics Agency, etc.) and cluster lead agencies.

In the case of a very large and complex emergency response, and when adequate information management capacity is not available in the clusters, technical capacity can be increased by deploying a HIC. The HIC would deploy with additional human resources, hardware such as large format plotters, and set up a physical space where relief organizations can manage and share information about an emergency.

WHO IS IT FOR?

The OCHA-IMU, as well as the HIC, is for Governments and humanitarian organizations. Information Management capacity in the cluster lead agencies supports cluster members and line ministries.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

It is accessed in-country through OCHA.

REPORTING TOOLS

OCHA Situation Report (Sitrep) is an operational document issued by OCHA that provides a snapshot of current needs, response efforts and gaps in an emergency. Sitreps are only issued during the acute phase of an emergency (i.e. at the onset of a new crisis or following the deterioration of an ongoing emergency). They are not used to report on chronic emergencies.²⁷ The OCHA Head of Office, in consultation with the UN RC and/or HC, decides whether a specific disaster event merits a Sitrep. Other OCHA reporting products may also be rolled out to support humanitarian decision-making. **The Humanitarian Snapshot** is an info-graphic (including a full-page map, graphics and textual summaries) that provides timely, visual insight into the situation. **The Humanitarian Dashboard** is an IASC tool designed to help clusters and HCTs monitor implementation of the response plan over the course of a crisis.

WHO IS IT FOR?

The Sitrep audience is operational humanitarian actors working inside and outside the affected country, as well as donors, Governments, civil-society organizations, the media and the public.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Sitreps are posted on ReliefWeb and www.unocha.org/roap for public access. Interested actors may also subscribe to receive Sitreps issued by OCHA globally (email ochareporting@un.org to request inclusion) and/or in the Asia-Pacific Region (email ocha-roap@un.org to request inclusion).

WEBSITES

ReliefWeb is a humanitarian website managed by OCHA that provides timely, reliable and relevant information and analysis (documents and maps) on humanitarian emergencies and disasters. It offers a consolidated collection of information consolidated from trusted sources, including international and non-governmental organizations, Governments, research institutions and the media among others, such as news articles, public reports, press releases, appeals, policy documents, analysis and maps related to humanitarian emergencies worldwide. To ensure ReliefWeb is updated around the clock, it maintains offices in three time zones: New York, Bangkok and Nairobi.



²⁷ As the response transitions out of its acute phase, OCHA will transition the Sitrep to a Humanitarian Bulletin, which is the weekly and/or monthly product normally produced by an in-country OCHA presence (including in chronic emergencies).

WHO IS IT FOR?

ReliefWeb is open to all.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

ReliefWeb can be accessed on the web and via RSS, e-mail, Twitter and Facebook.

Financial Tracking Service (FTS) is a global database maintained by OCHA that records humanitarian contributions (cash and in kind) to emergencies. FTS is a real-time, searchable database that includes all reported international humanitarian aid, with a special focus on CAPs. FTS can only record contributions that are reported to it by donors **and** recipient entities.



WHO IS IT FOR?

FTS is publicly accessible.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Donor and affected Governments can report contributions via fts@un.org or a form available on the FTS website. Contribution reports are triangulated with reports from recipient agencies to show how contributions are used (i.e. whether they have been committed to a specific CAP, Flash or other appeal).

HumanitarianResponse.info is a humanitarian web-based platform to support inter-cluster coordination and information management in line with the endorsed IASC Operational Guidance on Responsibilities of Cluster/Sector Leads and OCHA Information Management. The main website provides core features for all countries, but also allows clusters to launch sites dedicated to specific disasters and/or countries should they have specific requirements that the main site does not meet. The site is envisaged as a complement to the information management capabilities of national authorities and in-country humanitarian and development actors.



WHO IS IT FOR?

It is a resource specifically tailored to the needs of clusters but publicly accessible.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

It is accessed at www.humanitarianresponse.info

ASEAN Disaster Info Network (ADInet) is a disaster web portal and database system for ASEAN nations managed by the AHA Centre. It offers a consolidated collection of information on disasters in the sub-region.



WHO IS IT FOR?

It is primarily intended for ASEAN member states but is publicly accessible.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

It is accessed at <http://adinet.ahacentre.org>

South Asian Disaster Knowledge Network (SADKN) is a web portal for the sharing of knowledge and information on disaster risk management in South Asia. SADKN is a network of networks, with one regional and eight national portals, involving all national stakeholders from the SAARC region.



WHO IS IT FOR?

It is for SAARC member states but is publicly accessible.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

It is accessed through the [SAARC SDMC website](#).

Pacific Disaster Net (PDN) is a disaster web portal and database system for Pacific Island countries that provides information on governance, risk assessment, early warning and monitoring, disaster risk management and training.



WHO IS IT FOR?

It is for Pacific Island countries but is publicly accessible.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

It is accessed through SPC at info@sopac.org

SATELLITE IMAGERY AND MAPPING

Satellite imagery can be a powerful tool for analysing the effects of a disaster quickly and over a large area. Mapping is an effective means of analysing and sharing information about the effects of an emergency. Many organizations, including OCHA, have a capacity for mapping data and using satellite imagery. The following tools and services are available to Governments.

Satellite imagery and mapping services in Asia and the Pacific			
Name	Host	Main purpose	Access through
UNITAR's Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT)	UN	Delivers imagery analysis and satellite solutions to UN and non-UN humanitarian organizations.	ocha-roap@un.org , or unosat@unitar.org
UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management & Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER)	UN	Connects disaster management & space communities; assists Governments in using space-based information for disaster preparedness	www.un-spider.org

Satellite imagery and mapping services in Asia and the Pacific			
Name	Host	Main purpose	Access through
Sentinel Asia	Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF)	Supports disaster management activities by applying GIS technology & space-based information	secretariat@aprsaf.org
International Charter for Space and Major Disasters	Consortium of national space agencies	Provides a unified system of space-data acquisition and delivery to people affected by natural or man-made disasters through authorized users	www.disasterscharter.org/web/charter/activate
MapAction	MapAction	Delivers information in mapped form to support decision-making & the delivery of aid	www.mapaction.org
iMMAP	iMMAP	Provides decision-making support services to national & international actors through mapping & a specialized tool for disaster awareness called the Common Operating Picture (COP) Framework	http://immap.org

ASSESSMENT TOOLS

Multi-Cluster Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) is a multi-sector assessment methodology carried out by key humanitarian stakeholders during the first two weeks following a sudden-onset disaster. It aims to provide fundamental information on the needs of affected people and the priorities for international support. The MIRA approach produces a preliminary scenario definition within the first 72 hours following a disaster and a final report within two weeks. MIRA is guided by the [IASC Operational Guidance on Coordinated Assessments in Humanitarian Crises](#), which was produced in 2011.



WHO IS IT FOR?

MIRA is primarily for HCT use in support of affected Governments.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Information on MIRA is available in-country through OCHA, the HC or the UN RC.

Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) and Recovery Framework is a Government-led assessment exercise with integrated support from the UN, the European Commission, the World Bank and other national and international actors. It combines into a single consolidated report information on the physical impacts of a disaster; the economic value of damage and loss; the human impacts as experienced by affected people; and the resulting early and long-term recovery needs and priorities.

The Recovery Framework is the principal output of a PDNA. It provides a basis for the prioritization, design and implementation of a coherent set of recovery programmes. There are various stages and procedures necessary in carrying out a PDNA, including a planning mission, an orientation meeting with all stakeholders, sectoral training/ orientation on top of the work of doing the assessment.

A PDNA complements rather than duplicates initial rapid assessments conducted by humanitarian actors. It analyses these assessments to obtain recovery-related data.

WHO IS IT FOR?

It is for Governments.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Information about PDNA-RF can be accessed through the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR)

REMEMBER

In addition to the multi-sectoral assessments described here, there are many other cluster-specific and thematic assessment methodologies and tools that can be employed in an emergency. One example is the Flash Environment Assessment Tool (FEAT) used in identifying acute environmental issues immediately following a disaster.

With a clear understanding of the primary international tools and services available in disaster response, it is now possible to review the suite of international disaster response preparedness services available to assist Governments in their planning and technical capacity building.

These tools exist in addition to the growing number of national response preparedness tools that Governments in the region have developed to support local authorities and civil society on their sovereign territories. As noted earlier in the guide, the entries included here are limited to response preparedness tools and services and do not encompass broader DRR efforts under the Hyogo Framework Agreement or the general rubric of preparedness.

This section covers tools and services in four areas of disaster response preparedness:

A. TECHNICAL TRAINING

B. READINESS PLANNING

C. SIMULATION EXERCISES

D. EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS



HOW TO READ THIS SECTION?

There is a short description of each tool and service, followed by two call outs in green bold: [1] Who is it for? [2] How is it accessed?

WHO IS IT FOR?

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?



Tools and services are also coded in the left-hand margin to show whether they are directly accessible to national Governments.

A. TECHNICAL TRAINING

Nine technical training opportunities are included in this section.²⁸ They are organized as follows: (a) international technical training and (b) bilateral technical training

INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL TRAINING

1. UNDAC training
2. ERAT induction course
3. INSARAG training
4. UN-CMCoord training
5. EEC training
6. UNHCR eCentre training

²⁸ Additional trainings worldwide are regularly listed on ReliefWeb. For further info, [access here](#)

- 7. RedR technical training
- 8. PEER

BILATERAL TECHNICAL TRAINING

- 1. USAID's Incident Command System technical support and training

INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL TRAINING

UNDAC training is offered via two courses: the UNDAC Induction Course and the UNDAC Refresher Course. The Induction Course is a two-week training that gives participants applicable knowledge about UNDAC's core activities: assessment, coordination and information management. The Refresher Course is a four- to five-day training course that UNDAC roster participants are required to take every two years to maintain these skill levels. Once a year, an UNDAC specialty course on environmental emergencies is also offered.



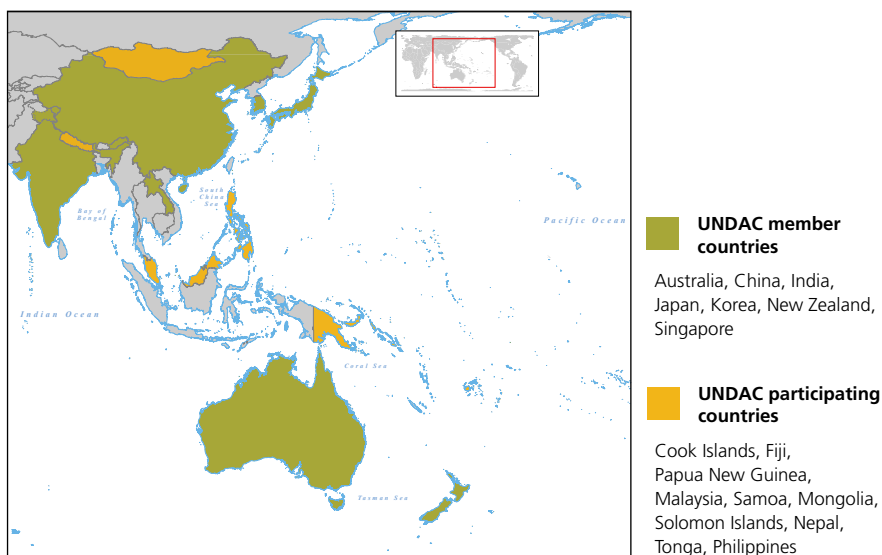
WHO IS IT FOR?

UNDAC training is available to representatives of UNDAC members and UNDAC participating countries. Representatives are generally from Government entities, OCHA and UN Agencies, but can also be from NGOs. Once the course is completed, participants are eligible to sign a contract and be added to the UNDAC emergency response roster. UNDAC roster participants are expected to be available at least two to three times a year for emergency missions.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

UNDAC training can be accessed through OCHA Field Coordination Support Services (OCHA-FCSS) at ocha-fcss@un.org or through the OCHA-ROAP office at ocha-roap@un.org

Map of UNDAC Member and Participating States in Asia and the Pacific



[ASEAN ERAT induction course](#) trains disaster managers from ASEAN Member States on how to assist affected Governments and the AHA Centre in meeting regional and/or international needs for coordination, and for early and quality information during the initial phase of a sudden-onset emergency. ERAT trainings are conducted over four or five days and focus on assessment, coordination, information management and equipment use within the AADMER operational framework. Initial courses have also covered UNDAC methodologies with support from OCHA.



WHO IS IT FOR?

ERAT induction courses are available to disaster experts from ASEAN countries. ERAT experts comprise representatives from NDMOs, health ministries, and fire and rescue services.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Participants are nominated by ASEAN national focal points. Further information is available from the ASEAN AHA Centre at info@ahacentre.org

[Training in INSARAG Guidelines and Methodology](#) offers technical expertise in international USAR response according to the following phases: preparedness, mobilization, operations, demobilization and post-mission. INSARAG training is designed to share internationally accepted procedures and systems for sustained cooperation between USAR teams in an emergency.



In addition to engagement with the INSARAG Guidelines, INSARAG member countries with USAR teams deploying internationally are encouraged to apply for IEC. The IEC is an independent, peer-review process of international USAR teams endorsed by INSARAG since 2005.²⁹ The IEC classifies teams as “Medium” and “Heavy” to ensure that only qualified and appropriate USAR resources are deployed in an emergency.³⁰

What does the INSARAG IEC classification emblem look like?



²⁹ It should be noted that IEC Classification is a multi-year process and there is a waitlist to become certified. IEC teams are expected to undergo reclassification once every five years.

³⁰ “Light” USAR teams are also very important due to their speed and agility in reaching disaster-affected communities, but they are primarily designed for deployment at the national level.

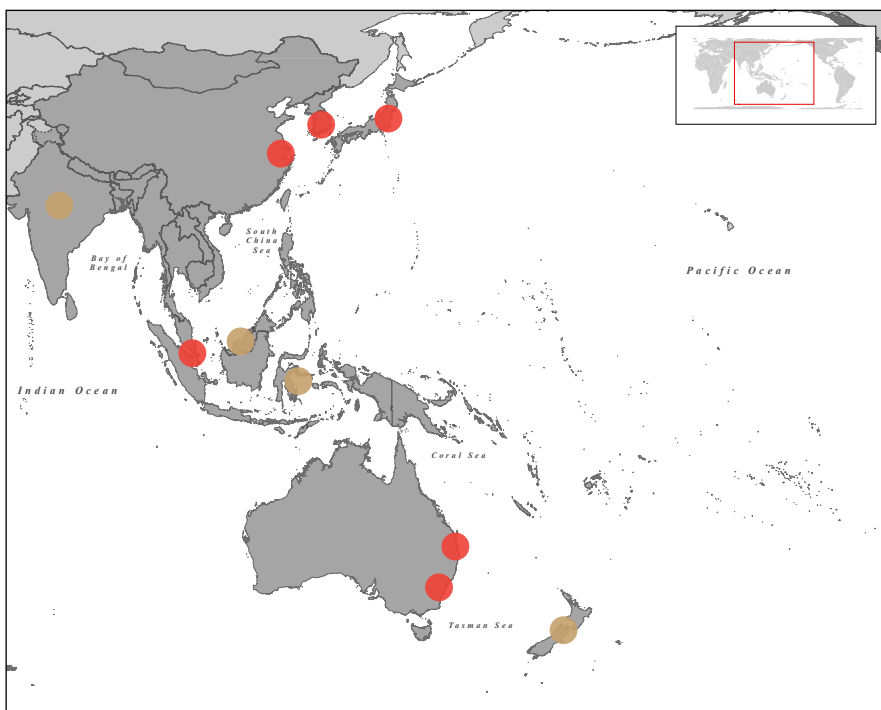
WHO IS IT FOR?

INSARAG training is available to any Government or organization with a stake in USAR.

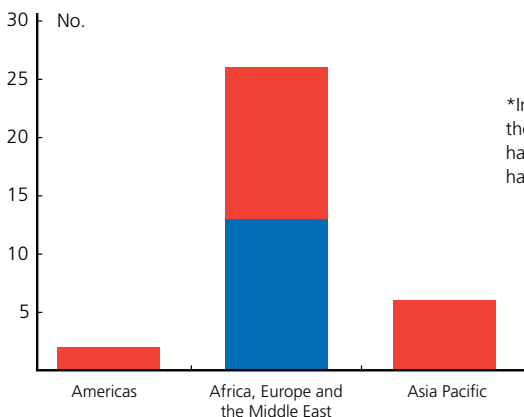
HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Countries interested in joining the INSARAG network can contact the INSARAG secretariat in Geneva at insarag@un.org OCHA-ROAP is also a liaison between countries in Asia and the Pacific and INSARAG, and can be contacted at ocha-roap@un.org

Countries with IEC-classified USAR teams in Asia and the Pacific



● Heavy USAR teams
 ● Medium USAR teams
 ● In process of IEC classification



*In addition to the USAR teams denoted in the map, Malaysia and the Philippines each have a national USAR team that does not have IEC or national classification.

UN Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination is offered by OCHA through its HQ-based Civil-Military Coordination Section (CMCS) as well as OCHA-ROAP. National and international actors are trained in humanitarian civil-military coordination concept and principles and their practical application in emergencies. The various courses offered are the Familiarization Course, the Regular Course, the Field Course and the Training-of-Trainers course.



WHO IS IT FOR?

UN-CMCoord training is for staff of Government organizations, aid agencies, civil-protection units, military and civil-defence organizations, UN agencies, the RCRC Movement and NGOs.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Training schedules and application forms can be downloaded. Additional information can also be provided by OCHA in Geneva at +41 (0) 22 917 34 84 or by OCHA ROAP at ocha-roap@un.org

Environmental Emergencies Centre (EEC) training provides an overview of the environmental emergency response process and introduces tools for assessing environmental risks, contingency planning and preparing for emergencies at the local level. The EEC, managed by the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit, conducts its environmental learning through free online tools, classroom trainings and workshops. Topics include disaster waste management, rapid environmental assessments and environmental emergency contingency planning.



WHO IS IT FOR?

EEC introductory and advanced training is for staff of Governments, UN organizations and public-sector entities.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

EEC provides a free online learning platform. The centre can also arrange classroom trainings and workshops. Enquiries can be made at ochaunep@un.org or through OCHA ROAP at ocha-roap@un.org

RedR offers a range of technical learning opportunities in emergency response. Different courses are offered through RedR member organizations in Asia and the Pacific. They include a set each of foundational courses, operational courses and technical sector courses.



WHO IS IT FOR?

RedR training is primarily for NGO staff members, but can also include representatives of Government agencies, regional institutions and international organizations.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

To find out more about RedR training, contact a RedR member organization rather than the RedR secretariat. RedR member organizations in Asia and the Pacific are RedR Australia, RedR India, RedR Lanka, RedR Malaysia and RedR New Zealand. Applications can be downloaded from the member organizations' websites.

UNHCR Regional Centre for Emergency Preparedness (the “eCentre”) training offers in-depth technical information on sector-specific emergency issues, with a focus on forced migration and protection. The Tokyo-based eCentre runs approximately 10 to 12 trainings per year covering topics including contingency planning, border management in humanitarian emergencies, standards of protection, safety in the field, media management and humanitarian coordination.



WHO IS IT FOR?

eCentre training is primarily for NGO staff members, but they can also include representatives of Government agencies, regional institutions and international organizations.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Training applications can be downloaded from the [eCentre website](#).

Programme for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER) is a regional training programme run by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) to increase national actors’ capacity to manage and prepare for disasters. Courses and curricula developed under the overall rubric of PEER include Hospital Preparedness for Emergencies and Community Action for Disaster Response (CADRE) . PEER also runs CADRE trainings and simulations in collaboration with Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies and other partners to develop the skills of community-level disaster responders.



WHO IS IT FOR?

PEER is for national NGOs and Governments. It operates in 10 Asia-Pacific countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos PDR, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Information on PEER training can be accessed from ADPC at peer@adpc.net. Applications for PEER and other ADPC trainings can be downloaded from the [ADPC website](#).

BILATERAL TECHNICAL TRAINING

Incident Command System (ICS) Technical Support and Training is offered through USAID and the US Forest Service International Programs to help Governments incorporate ICS into their national emergency response systems. The primary focus is the ICS, which is a system that allows for the integration of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures and communications operating within a common organizational structure in an emergency.



The US Forest Service also provides training and technical assistance in other incident management system components, including Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) management, Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) systems and Exercise Design/Conduct/Evaluation. US Forest Service technical assistance programmes typically

include a train-the-trainer scheme, pilot testing and implementation, and a process for customizing and institutionalizing the system.

WHO IS IT FOR?

ICS, EOC, MAC and exercise-related training and technical assistance are for national Governments and partner response agencies/organizations.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

For more information on ICS training through USAID and US Forest Service International Programs, contact the USAID/OFDA Regional Office for Asia Pacific at +66 (0)2 257-3271, or Kevin Misenheimer at US Forest Service International Programs, kmisenheimer@fs.fed.us.

REMEMBER

1. In addition to the technical trainings described here, regional intergovernmental organizations, such as ASEAN, SAARC and SPC, offer regular training opportunities to representatives of their Member States. Please refer to their websites for listings.
2. Sector-specific trainings are also available through global clusters, UN agencies, NGOs and regional learning institutions. One example is the [Humanitarian Leadership Programme](#) offered by Save the Children Australia and Deakin University.
3. Training costs are generally the responsibility of participants; however, applicants are always encouraged to inquire about financial assistance.

B. READINESS PLANNING

The term “readiness planning” refers to policy and legal preparedness, contingency planning, establishment of national incident command systems and other processes that clarify the roles between humanitarian actors. Five readiness tools and services are included in this section.

LEGAL PREPAREDNESS

1. Legal preparedness for disasters consistent with IDRL Guidelines
2. UN Model Customs Facilitation Agreement

INTEGRATED PREPAREDNESS PACKAGES AND MISSIONS

1. Minimum Preparedness Package
2. UNDAC disaster response preparedness missions

SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

1. National Incident Management Systems development

LEGAL PREPAREDNESS

[Legal preparedness for disasters consistent with IDRL Guidelines](#) addresses the initiation, facilitation, transit and regulation of international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance. Preparedness planning can include the review and development of disaster management laws, immigration laws, customs laws, quarantine procedures, and civil and criminal liability processes. The IFRC facilitated review of national legislation on disaster management usually takes between six and eight months. However, the development of new laws is a longer-term process, as these laws are subject to the review and adoption processes of a particular country's legal system.



A model legislation developed by IFRC to support legal preparedness for disasters by national Governments is called the [Model Act for the Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance](#). It is a reference tool and example for lawmakers on how to develop legislation appropriate to the national situation, keeping in mind the different legal and disaster response systems across states.



The implementation of the IDRL Guidelines and the Model Act are designed to greatly enhance the timely response during a sudden onset disaster or emergency.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Legal preparedness consistent with the IDRL Guidelines, and the Model Act, are for Governments.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

The legal-preparedness process is usually initiated by a National Red Cross Red Crescent Society in cooperation with its national Government and with support from IFRC. [The Model Act](#) is available online. It is also available through National Societies or IFRC.

IDRL IN ACTION: THE CASES OF INDONESIA, CAMBODIA AND THE COOK ISLANDS

Between 2004 and 2006, IFRC and the Indonesia Red Cross conducted a series of studies in collaboration with the Government of **Indonesia** to identify the legal issues that had affected international relief operations in that country. Following intensive consultations involving a wide range of stakeholders, the Government adopted a new law on disaster management in 2007. In 2008, the President promulgated Regulation No.23 on the Participation of International Institutions and Foreign Non-governmental Institutions in Disaster Management, which draws strongly from the IDRL Guidelines. In December 2010, more detailed and specific guidelines were adopted, titled "The Role of International Organisations and Foreign Nongovernment Organisations during Emergency Response".

In 2008, IFRC initiated support to the Government of **Cambodia** and the Cambodia Red Cross Society in their undertaking of an IDRL technical assistance project to analyse the national legal framework for international assistance. Following this review, Cambodia drafted a new disaster management law. If passed in its current form by Parliament, it will be one of the most comprehensive disaster management laws in the Asia-Pacific region, with an entire chapter dedicated to international assistance.

The IDRL Guidelines are also having a significant impact in the Pacific. Following the completion of an IDRL study in the **Cook Islands**, the Cook Islands Prime Minister raised the importance of the IDRL Guidelines with leaders of Pacific Island States during the 43rd Pacific Island Forum in August 2012. The Forum Communiqué encourages the Pacific Island States to use the IDRL Guidelines to strengthen their national policy and institutional and legal frameworks in collaboration with their National Red Cross Societies, IFRC, the UN and other relevant partners.

Indonesia, New Zealand and the Philippines have adopted new laws, regulations or procedures at the national level with provisions inspired by or consistent with the IDRL Guidelines. Legal review processes and/or IDRL studies conducted by IFRC and National Societies have been completed or are underway in Afghanistan, Cambodia, the Cook Islands, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Vanuatu and Viet Nam. For detailed information on the progress of IDRL technical assistance projects in Asia and the Pacific, [see here](#).

UN Model Customs Facilitation Agreement is a tool available to States to expedite the import, export and transit of relief consignments and the possessions of relief personnel in a disaster. The UN Model Customs Agreement contains provisions regarding simplified documentation and inspection procedures; temporary or permanent waiving of duties; taxes on imports of relief items and equipment of relief personnel, UN agencies and accredited NGOs; and arrangements for clearance outside official working hours and locations.



WHO IS IT FOR?

A UN Model Customs Agreement is signed between a Government and the UN. Countries in Asia and the Pacific that have signed a UN Model Customs Agreement are Nepal, Bhutan and Thailand.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Information on procedures for signing the agreement can be accessed through the UN RC or HC, or through OCHA-ROAP at ocha-roap@un.org

INTEGRATED PREPAREDNESS PACKAGES AND MISSIONS

Minimum Preparedness Package (MPP) is an integrated set of support services managed by OCHA and designed to help Governments, RC/HCs and HCTs at the country level to improve response preparedness. The MPP seeks to identify preparedness gaps and thereafter provide targeted training to achieve a basic readiness to undertake a coordinated response in support of Government. Simulation exercises are used to determine the overall impact of interventions. The MPP focuses on six main areas considered central to an effective and well-coordinated response: [1] basic roles and responsibilities, [2] arrangements for coordination, including with Governments; [3] needs assessment; [4] arrangements for resource mobilization; [5] communications and reporting; and [6] arrangements for information management.



WHO IS IT FOR?

The MPP is for RC/HCs, HCTs and Governments at the country level. In Asia and the Pacific, the MPP has been piloted in Papua New Guinea, Lao PDR and DPRK. MPP activities are underway in Cambodia, Mongolia and Myanmar.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

UN RC/HCs and Governments can request OCHA-ROAP to undertake an MPP implementation. NDMOs and relevant line ministries are an integral part of in-country activities. Further information is also available from OCHA-ROAP at ocha-roap@un.org

UNDAC Disaster Response Preparedness Missions in Asia and the Pacific			
Country	Year	Participating countries/organizations	Number of members
Sri Lanka	2011	OCHA, UNISDR, IFRC, World Bank, UNDP, Australia, Fiji, India, Italy, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Sweden, IHP (Norway)	14
PNG	2009	OCHA, IFRC, UNEP, Australia, Fiji, Japan, New Zealand, Philippines, Tonga	09
Cambodia	2009	OCHA, IFRC, UNEP, Australia, France, Singapore, Switzerland, UNEP, IFRC	11
Bhutan	2008	OCHA, IFRC, ECHO India, Philippines, UK	09
Laos	2007	OCHA, IFRC, Australia, Estonia, Korea, Philippines, Sweden, UK	11
Philippines	2005	OCHA, IFRC Australia, China, Malaysia, Philippines, UK	09
Mongolia	2004	OCHA, Japan, Netherlands, Philippines, Sweden, Switzerland, UK.	08

UNDAC disaster response preparedness missions support the evaluation and strengthening of national response preparedness, including policies and legislation. UNDAC response preparedness teams comprise five to 10 trained UNDAC members and include experts from UN humanitarian organizations, UN Member States, donor countries, the RCRC Movement and humanitarian NGOs. The missions are generally conducted over two weeks and periodic reviews on the progress in implementing the recommendations that have been agreed with national authorities are undertaken by the UNDAC team.

WHO IS IT FOR?

UNDAC disaster response preparedness missions are conducted at the request of and for Governments and/or HCTs.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

National Governments, in particular the national UNDAC Focal Point where such exists, can contact the UN RC or HC, as they provide overall guidance for the UNDAC disaster response preparedness missions. Information is also available from OCHA-ROAP at ocha-roap@un.org

SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) development is provided by USAID and US Forest Service International Programs in collaboration with other US Government entities. NIMS has five primary components: Preparedness, Communications and Information Management, Resource Management, Command and Management (including ICS), and Ongoing Maintenance and Management. A national incident-management system provides a consistent nationwide approach for incident management that enables Government officials at all levels and their partners to work together before, during and after incidents.



WHO IS IT FOR?

NIMS technical support is for national Governments.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

It is accessed through USAID/OFDA Regional Office for Asia Pacific at +66 (0) 2 257-3271, or by contacting Kevin Misenheimer at US Forest Service International Programs, kmisenheimer@fs.fed.us.

REMEMBER

Technical support for readiness planning can be called upon as offered. The TORs for technical support can also be tailored to the specific training needs and national capacity-building efforts of national Governments.

D. SIMULATION EXERCISES

There are a number of disaster simulation exercises conducted periodically in Asia and the Pacific designed to enhance humanitarian actors’ readiness to respond to a disaster. In addition to regular civil-military coordination simulation exercises conducted at the national and regional levels (based on bilateral / multi-lateral arrangements), there are a number of regular, intergovernmental simulation exercises that occur annually, which are organized by international or regional organizations:

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION-LED EXERCISES

1. Regional INSARAG USAR simulation exercises
2. IASC IAES Simulation Exercise

REGIONAL ORGANIZATION-LED EXERCISES

1. ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercises
2. ASEAN Regional Forum Disaster Relief Exercise

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION-LED EXERCISES

Regional INSARAG USAR simulation exercises give disaster managers the opportunity to test earthquake-response methodologies and to improve coordination between local, regional and international USAR teams. The exercises include pre-exercise training, simulation and lessons-learned components that take place over one week.

WHO IS IT FOR?

INSARAG simulation exercises are for Government officials, including civil-defence and USAR teams, and national and international humanitarian organizations. Regional INSARAG simulation exercises have taken place in Manila, (Philippines), Kathmandu (Nepal), Padang (Indonesia) and Agra (India).

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Disaster managers interested in participating in or hosting USAR simulation exercises can contact the INSARAG secretariat in Geneva at insarag@un.org. OCHA-ROAP is also a liaison between countries in Asia and the Pacific and INSARAG, and can be contacted at ocha-roap@un.org.

IASC Inter-Agency Emergency Simulation (IASC IAES) is an inter-agency simulation platform that aims to reinforce country-level emergency preparedness and coordination. The simulation includes a one-day pre-briefing, a full day field exercise, and a one-day debriefing. IASC IAES is designed to enable in-country actors to test existing disaster preparedness policies, contingency plans and procedures.

WHO IS IT FOR?

IASC IAES are conducted at the national level. Participants include government entities and in-country humanitarian agencies. Countries in Asia Pacific that have participated in the IASC IAES include DPRK, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

The IASC IAES can be requested through the UN Resident Coordinator or Humanitarian Coordinator or through UNOCHA ROAP at ocha-roap@un.org.

In addition to the overarching simulation exercises described here, UN agencies, NGOs and clusters often run additional sector-specific and/or community-level simulations. Some such simulations include WHO-led national and regional simulation exercises on [influenza pandemic responses](#), [ECB simulation exercises](#), and [World Vision disaster simulation exercises](#).

REGIONAL ORGANIZATION-LED EXERCISES

ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercises (ARDEX) are multi-day field simulations involving ASEAN country representatives and their partners. They generate practical inputs for the effective implementation of AADMER, with a focus on using the ASEAN Standby Arrangements and Standard Operating Procedures (SASOP). During ARDEX, representatives from participating ASEAN member countries seek to understand, test and enhance national and international mechanisms for disaster and emergency response. ARDEX has taken place in Malaysia (2005), Cambodia (2006), Singapore (2007) and Indonesia (2008).

WHO IS IT FOR?

ARDEX is for ASEAN Governments and their partners.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

For more information, contact the ASEAN AHA Centre at info@ahacentre.org.

ASEAN Regional Forum Disaster Relief Exercise (ARF-DiREx) is a large-scale multinational military-to-military and civilian-to-military disaster relief simulation that takes place over approximately five days. ARF-DiREx allows participating countries to strengthen cooperation and enhance interoperability for large-scale international response efforts.

WHO IS IT FOR?

ARF-DiREx participants include Government representatives from ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) countries, as well as staff from the AHA Centre, UN agencies and the RCRC Movement. The first ARF DiREx took place in Manado, Indonesia, in 2011.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Information about ARF-DiREx can be accessed through [ARF contact points for disaster relief](#) in each of the ARF participating countries.

Regional civil-military simulation exercises are designed to strengthen regional partners' ability to respond to shared security challenges and other contingencies. Many focus on the rapid and effective establishment and/or augmentation of a multinational task force headquarters and include skills training on humanitarian assistance and disaster response. A variety of such exercises take place throughout the year and mostly through bilateral arrangements between Asia-Pacific States and their dialogue partners. Some examples include the US-Thai Cobra Gold exercises, MPAT Tempest Express exercises and the US-Philippines Balikatan exercises.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Regional civil-military simulations are for national military forces and their dialogue partners.







HOW IS IT ACCESSED?




Information about the civil-military simulations listed above can be accessed through the military forces of hosting and organizing countries.

E. EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS




There are a growing number of early warning systems available to disaster managers in Asia and the Pacific. Early warning systems vary in geographic and thematic coverage, and offer different levels of situational awareness, alerting and executive decision-making support to national Governments and their partners. The early warning systems listed here are the regional and international systems that exist in addition to the mechanisms operated by national meteorological agencies and other Government entities in the region, including NDMOs.

Fourteen early warning systems are described in this section. For ease of reference, this section consists of a summary table only.

Early Warning Systems in Asia and the Pacific			
Name	Host	Main purpose	Access through
WEATHER FORECASTING			
Joint Typhoon Warning System	US Navy	Provides weather advisories and tropical cyclone alerts for the Indian Ocean and Pacific	
Fiji Meteorological Service	Fiji	Offers weather forecasting and tropical cyclone warning services on a regional scale to countries across the South Pacific in addition to forecasting for Fiji	
Emergency Managers Weather Information Service (EmWIN)	USA	Offers severe weather information through a suite of data-access methods (radio, Internet, satellite) and live stream alerts	
Japan Meteorological Agency	Japan	Provides weather advisories and tropical cyclone alerts for Japan and neighbouring countries	
Bureau of Meteorology	Australia	Provides weather advisories and tropical cyclone alerts for Australia and neighbouring countries	
FLOOD WARNING			
Mekong River Commission Monitoring and Forecasting	Mekong River Commission	Monitors water levels of Mekong River and provides flash flood warnings	

Early Warning Systems in Asia and the Pacific			
Name	Host	Main purpose	Access through
TSUNAMI WARNING			
Pacific Tsunami Warning System (PTWS)	26 Member States (Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, based in Hawaii, is the operational centre).	Monitors seismological and tidal stations throughout the Pacific Basin to evaluate potential tsunamis - triggered by earthquakes	
Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS)	UN	Provides tsunami early warning to nations bordering the Indian Ocean. It consists of 25 seismographic stations and three deep-ocean sensors	
MULTI-HAZARD			
Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES)	13 Member and 18 Collaborating States (housed at Asian Institute of Technology)	Provides regional early warning services and builds its Member States' capacity in the end-to-end early warning of tsunami and hydro-meteorological hazards	
ASEAN Disaster Monitoring and Response System (DMRS)	AHA Centre (powered by Disaster AWARE)	Integrates data from numerous sources, including national and international hazard monitoring and disaster warning agencies, into a single platform. Registration of ASEAN disaster managers is required for access.	
DisasterAWARE	Pacific Disaster Center (PDC)	Provides global Internet-based multi-hazard monitoring, alerting and decision support to disaster management and International organizations and NGOs. DisasterAWARE also powers the regional and national warning systems at the ASEAN AHA Centre, Viet Nam's DMC and Thailand's NDWC. ³¹	
US Geological Service	USA	Provides information on global ecosystems & environments with attention to natural hazards warning. USGS supports the warning responsibilities of the NOAA for geomagnetic storms & tsunamis.	
Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS)	UN & EU	Provides alerts about global hazards and tools to facilitate response coordination. It contains preliminary disaster information and electronically calculated loss-and-impact estimations after major disasters.	
Humanitarian Emergency Warning Service	IASC (WFP)	An up-to-the-minute global multi-hazard-watch service to support humanitarian preparedness.	

³¹ PDC hosts two applications: [1] EMOPS, for disaster management professionals; and [2] the Global Hazards Atlas, for the public. A Disaster Alert mobile app is also available. Indonesia is working with PDC to develop its own version of DisasterAWARE. The Philippines and Cambodia have also expressed an interest in acquiring national versions.

Early Warning Systems in Asia and the Pacific			
Name	Host	Main purpose	Access through
MULTI-HAZARD			
US Geological Service	USA	Provides information on global ecosystems & environments with attention to natural hazards warning. USGS supports the warning responsibilities of the NOAA for geomagnetic storms & tsunamis.	
Global Disaster Alert & Coordination System	UN & EU	Provides alerts about global hazards & tools to facilitate response coordination. It contains preliminary disaster information & electronically calculated loss-and-impact estimations after major disasters.	
Humanitarian Emergency Warning Service	IASC (WFP)	An up-to-the-minute global multi-hazard-watch service to support humanitarian preparedness.	

REMEMBER

1. Early warning systems are continually evolving in the region. They provide varying levels of situational awareness depending on the scale of GIS and other data layers included.
2. Most of the systems listed here use the same information sources and share warning and alert messages with each other.



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