



IEC/R Review Team

DRAFT Terms of Reference(ToRs)

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Background

Established in 2005, the INSARAG External Classifications (IEC) is designed to ensure that assisting countries who dispatch an Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team with the required capabilities that can make a difference and add value to national rescue efforts. International teams working alongside each other will also know the type of teams they are working with and their capacities. Having teams classified according to a globally recognized standard will enable disaster affected countries to prioritize acceptance of international response support from USAR Teams who can strengthen the coordination and effectiveness of USAR assistance. Reclassifications (IER) are conducted every five years to ensure the teams continue to be operationally fit for purpose at the level that they were classified.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the INSARAG network is facing some unprecedented challenges and 90% of IEC and IER have been postponed at the request of governments, with the assumption that it will be safe to conduct these events then.

On 26 May 2020, the Global, Regional and Working Group Chairs, have unanimously endorsed the extension of the classification validity of teams for two years. Following the extension, teams will need to provide evidence to the Secretariat that they are operational and constantly training to be operationally ready and justify their classification status during this time.

The INSARAG in Covid-19-Fit for Purpose 2.0 document also recommends that the network review and recalibrate the 15-year-old quality assurance system, and through a thorough review of the roster of classifiers provided in kind by INSARAG classified teams in this unique peer to peer review process

A system wide IEC/R Review of the Processes was also conducted in late 2019, and the report with twenty recommendations to improve the process, is now completed.

The IEC/R Review Team made up of selected individuals with a wealth of experience in the IEC/R system and from all the INSARAG Regions will

TORs and Assignment

By conducting the IEC/R Review, the network will collectively review, reflect and recalibrate its existing system in such a way that INSARAG can be more effective despite the challenges the pandemic currently poses and may pose in the future.

The IEC/R global system can be further strengthened following the IEC/R system review of roster cadre members including Team Leaders and mentors, the classifier roster planning and the list of existing nominated classifiers, and to reflect on lessons learned from past IEC/Rs. Remote refresher trainings could be offered for this cadre.

The assignment has the following three components:

- (a) The Secretariat will share a database and CVs of the pool of classifiers with the project team who will review the candidates against the ToRs for Classifiers established in the INSARAG Guidelines Vol II, Manual C and recommend a new list of suitably qualified classifiers. A list of potential IEC/R Team Leaders, and Mentors and Secretariat Representatives will also be recommended.
- (b) The project team will study and propose a system for INSARAG teams who have accepted the offer of extension of their classification status, to be implemented in 2021. This will ensure that teams justify their operational readiness in the extension period.
- (c) The project team will review the recommendations from the IEC/R System Report and propose a road map on the way forward to raise the IEC/R quality and processes.

Timeframe

The draft timelines for the project is in Annex A.

Drafted by the INSARAG Secretariat.