

8 – 11 October, Santiago de Chile

Meeting Overview

More than 188 participants from over 50 countries and organisations working on urban search and rescue (USAR) gathered for the annual International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) Team Leaders Meeting in Santiago de Chile from 9 – 11 October 2019 (Participants list in **Annex A**).

The meeting was convened to discuss technical issues within the INSARAG Guidelines, discuss lessons learned from previous USAR operations and training exercises and share updates and best practices in order to ensure that the INSARAG Network remains fit for purpose in a constantly evolving response landscape. This year, the meeting was of particular importance as participants had the opportunity to review and feed their contributions into the ongoing update of the INSARAG Guidelines, expected to be endorsed in 2020, as well as into the development of the new INSARAG global strategy for the period 2020-25.

The meeting was hosted by the Bomberos de Chile, supported by the Government of Chile through the National Emergency Office (ONEMI) and co-organized by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in its capacity as the INSARAG Secretariat.

Summary of Presentations and Discussions

DAY 1 – 9 October 2019 Sessions

Official Opening

Mr. Raul Bustos, President of the Bomberos de Chile opened the meeting and warmly welcomed all participants to the INSARAG Team Leader's Meeting 2019. He recalled the history of Chile, frequently affected by severe earthquakes and outlined the important developments that have taken place in Chile since the 2010 8.8 earthquake. Prior to that earthquake, Chile was not an active member of the INSARAG network, but it has since found enormous value in the guidelines and the network. In addition to this Chile noted how the methodology can be adapted to the national context and help guide national capacity building efforts. After much effort, Chile is proud to have national teams implementing the INSARAG methodology and one classified team for international deployment.

Mr. Cristobal Mena, Deputy National Director of ONEMI also provided a welcome speech on behalf of Ricardo Toro, National Director of ONEMI who was unable to attend. On behalf of the Government of Chile, participants were warmly welcomed, encouraged to engage in active discussions and share experiences from around the world to improve the way they work together.

Mr. Sebastian Rhodes Stampa, Chief of the Emergency Response Section (ERS) and the Head of the INSARAG Secretariat in OCHA, thanked the Government of Chile for hosting the meeting. He congratulated those present on the success of INSARAG over the past three decades in strengthening coordination in order to ensure more timely, effective and coherent response. In order to remain fit for the future Mr. Rhodes Stampa noted the importance of embracing localisation through enhancing capacity building, encouraged participants to consider flexible response as the most appropriate way of meeting diverse challenges and serving those in need and spoke of the need to discuss gender as a central consideration in USAR.

After the introduction of all participants, the Secretariat briefly presented the agenda, which was subsequently adopted (Meeting Agenda in **Annex B**).

1. INSARAG in 2019

Mr. Winston Chang updated the participants on achievements at the global level and reported on strategic directions from the INSARAG Steering Group (ISG) 2019 meeting and global developments in INSARAG.

2. Update from Working Groups Chairs

The following four working group chairs of Training, Medical, Information Management and Light Teams presented updates on their assigned work:

- i. **Training Working Group (TWG)** - Mr. Dewey Perks, Chair of the TWG updated participants on the activities of the TWG. He shared that the TWG has worked in collaboration with the GRG on the INSARAG Guidelines, designed IEC and IER checklist and redesigned the team leader and mentor training course. Furthermore, he shared future plans for the TWG which includes the testing of the new IER checklist in the field, universal updating for manuals and methodology and delivering new courses.
- ii. **Medical Working Group (MWG)** - Mr. Anthony Macintyre, Chair of the MWG provided an update. He shared that the MWG had identified the need to update the Guidance Notes with information and newer terminology in accordance with the latest research and WHO recommendations, and the need for a new best practice document on behavioural health impacts on USAR team members. It was also shared that the MWG and partners need to further revise the rapid health facility assessments form.
- iii. **Light Teams Working Group (LTWG)** - Mr. Arjan Stam, Chair of the LTWG provided an update on ongoing discussions in the LTWG. He noted that the Checklist for the IEC of Light Teams was endorsed in this year. In addition to this, there have been various advancements with partners to implement certain standards of a Light Team, as well as to create a guidance note for the implementation of classified Light USAR teams.
- iv. **Information Management Working Group (IMWG)**- Mr. Peter Wolff, Chair of the IMWG provided an update on Data Collection Tool and the Dashboard. He said that the two have been used in a number of exercises over the past year and is now ready for use. Prior to the Team Leaders Meeting, Team Leaders had a chance to experience and work with the new system. It was also shared that IMWG has several initiatives including the refinement of information collected through INSARAG forms; the development of training material and content for ICMS; the review of the SOP and User Handbook; collaboration with the TWG and GRG on a training program and the guidelines, respectively; attendance at regional exercises and the implementation of the new ICMS at the beginning of 2020.

3. Update from Guidelines Review Group

Mr. David Sochor from Switzerland, and Mr. Anwar Abdullah from Singapore, Co-Chairs of the Guidelines Review Group (GRG) outlined the current status of the INSARAG guidelines update and provided a brief overview of the proposed structure of the Guidelines, expected to be endorsed by the INSARAG Steering Group in 2020 for final launch in the INSARAG Global Meeting in Poland in October 2020.

The summary of the inputs provided by participants in the four breakout sessions as outlined below can be found in **Annexes C1 – C4**.

- Topic 1: Volume II. Manual A
- Topic 2: Volume II. Manual B
- Topic 3: Volume II. Manual C
- Topic 4: Volume III

4. Presentation: Chile's USAR Response system

Mr Sebastian Mocarquer, Bomberos de Chile, presented on the Chilean USAR response system with a specific emphasis on how the system has evolved since the 2010 earthquake and how Chile has used the INSARAG guidelines and methodology and adapted it to fit the local context.

See the presentation at:

https://vosocc.unocha.org/GetFile.aspx?file=96214_Chile%20USAR%20response%20system.pdf

5. Presentation: Preparing for the First Light Team IEC in 2020

Ms. Annika Coll and Mr. Johannes Gust discussed the key developments related to the preparation of Classification for the first Light Team in 2020. The team that will be undergoing this process is @fire, a German NGO who have been a member of INSARAG since 2010. The presentation covered the members of @fire, the reason for wanting to be the first light classified team, and the process that the team has been undergoing towards classification.

6. Presentation: Virtual Training of ASR2

Mr. Martin Evers presented on the possible use of integrating Virtual Reality (VR) training with USAR training to better prepare for triage of worksites after an earthquake. VR training would be useful in helping persons on a USAR team become accustomed to certain scenarios without even having been in them. There are different options available to cater the VR training to a team's specific needs. The synergy of these two areas are yet to be determined.

7. Presentation: From KoBo to ESRI: Overview, Lessons and Discussions

Mr. Peter Wolff of the Information Management Working Group presented on the specificities of the transition from KoBo to ESRI. A roadmap detailing the phases of the implementation and multiple updates were presented. These updates included information on ICMS training, the implementation of ICMS on the Virtual OSOCC and updates on several forms, including: the team fact sheet, the worksite triage form, the worksite report form, the victim extrication form and the humanitarian needs identification form.

8. Discussion: IEC/R System – Panel Discussion

Several persons contributed to this panel discussion which included presentations on the benefits the IEC process has had on some countries, and the process through which other countries are undergoing for their upcoming IEC.

Following this, the Secretariat, represented by Mr. Winston Chang, presented on the demographics of the INSARAG classified teams to date and some facts on how the IEC/R process will continue in 2020. He further presented results from a survey concerning areas in which the IEC/R could be improved which had been shared with the INSARAG Network in August and September 2019.

9. Break-out Technical Discussions – Session 2

The three break-out discussions were organised as listed below. All the participants were divided into 3 groups, and the groups rotated covering all the three topics:

- Topic 1: Strengthening Quality Standards and Coordination
- Topic 2: Advancing Flexible Assistance
- Topic 3: Enhancing Preparedness and Bolstering Partnerships

The summary of the inputs provided by participants in the three breakout sessions as outlined below can be found in **Annexes D1 – D3**.

10. 1. New technology used to predict aftershocks and landslides (David Wald, USGS)

David Wald, USGS, presented on the new products that USGS is working on and that can be of use to the INSARAG community, in particular products that focus on ground failure and predicting the likelihood of aftershocks (operational aftershock forecasting). He encouraged participants to provide feedback directly to USGS on how they can improve their products so that they become directly relevant to users in the field.

10. 2. Experience of the Americas region with the National Accreditation Process

The following representatives from the Americas regional group shared their experience with the implementation of the national accreditation process in their country:

- Ivan Mazariegos, Guatemala – a country with an INSARAG-recognized National Accreditation Process
- Silvia Ballen, Colombia – also a country with an INSARAG-recognized National Accreditation process
- Patricio Fuentes von Jentschik, Chile – a country with a national accreditation process, and willing to undergo the INSARAG process to become recognized as IRNAP

Christophe Schmachtel, INSARAG Americas Secretariat/ OCHA, facilitated the panel discussion after having provided a brief introduction to the topic and how why the focus in the Americas region in the past few years was on strengthening INSARAG’s capacity to support national authorities in strengthening their capacities based on the INSARAG guidelines.

Panelists highlighted the value of adapting the INSARAG methodology to the local context in that it allows national teams and the national disaster management structure to follow internationally recommended good practice and guidelines. And should international assistance be required; the country will be well prepared to incorporate the additional international teams into their national response structure. The value of having an external, INSARAG endorsement of the national response capacities provides a level of quality assurance and is a strong argument at national level to work towards enhancing capacities. Panelists also highlighted the importance of regional collaboration and cooperation in strengthening national capacities. Whilst the process is fundamentally about improving capacities to respond domestically, regional collaboration allows for cross-checking and learning from others good practices and mistakes. And aside from this, it allows for teams across borders to know each other and for better cooperation in times of emergencies.

11. Plenary discussion: Additional Suggestions and Assignments to the INSARAG Working Groups

Working Groups will continue the work as highlighted in their reports earlier, and support strongly on the work of the guidelines review and implementation.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM MEMBER STATES

	Country	Event	Tentative Date
2019			
1	Italy	AEME Regional Meeting	24-25 October
2	Argentina	Americas Regional Meeting	13-15 November
3	Netherlands	6 th Guidelines Review Group Meeting	9-11 December
4	France	UCC Course	9-13 December
2020			
5	TBC	INSARAG Steering Group Meeting	6-7 February 2020
6	Poland	INSARAG Global Meeting	4-9 October 2020
7			
<p><i>Members are strongly encouraged to share relevant training opportunities with the network and Inform the Secretariat when there are new events that we can share with the network from http://insarag.org</i></p>			

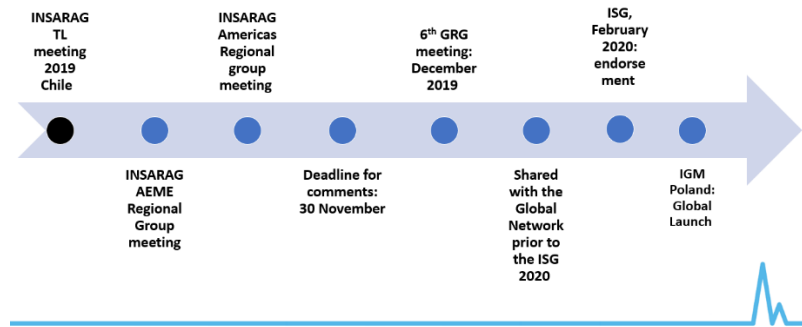
13. Meeting conclusions

Mr. Christophe Schmachtel, INSARAG Secretariat, presented the key points and recommendations from the Team Leader's meeting, which were endorsed as follows:

On the INSARAG guidelines revision:

- Timeline for the remaining process

Remaining INSARAG guidelines review process



- General comments on the Guidelines review process
 - More clarity required (and justification) for the separation in different categories (Guidelines, guidance notes, technical reference library)
 - What type of content goes where? Endorsement process unclear
 - The rising number of documents, their consistency, accessibility and ease to use was a raised major concern by the TL's. An electronic document management system was suggested (e.g. an update of the INSARAG App)
- On Volume II A
 - Concept:
 - Clearer messaging on the actual purpose of the NAP, the IRNAP and how it relates to the IEC (ie. NAP as prerequisite), especially the international light team concept
 - On the National Accreditation Process
 - final exercise for a team to undergo a NAP to be clearly stated
 - Coordination capacities at national level (UCC, RDC) to be clearly stated, to coordinate own response and prepare for potential international response
 - On the INSARAG Recognition of National Accreditation Processes (IRNAP)
 - a national accreditation exercise to be observed
 - Need to establish a clear mechanism/ procedures for quality assurance
 - More details on the steps of the process, TSG roster, requirements for members ; flowchart to explain the process
 - Include experience sharing
 - Tools:
 - provide more tools for the implementation of the NAP (ie. NAP Handbook, checklists, templates for implementation plans.
- On Volume II B
 - The proposed changes in Manual B were accepted
- On Volume II C
 - Breakdown of Volume C into Volume C and a Classification handbook under the category of "guidance note (and or Documents)"
 - Color system: Opinions are mixed, while some are in favor, others believe it has fulfilled its need and should be replaced. Regions are encouraged to discuss this and present recommendations to the GRG
 - Reporting timeline once IEC exercise is done: classification package to be finished and submitted in not more than 30 days. Suggestion, draft presented before departure, 7 days later report submitted to Secretariat , 7 days later final report given to Team.
- On Volume III

- Use of Volume III
 - It is being used but not necessarily in the way it was originally intended to be used
 - More as a reference, and as input for own field manuals/ SOPs
- Suggested changes
 - Content:
 - Split the guide by roles or functions or phases
 - Include new content such as shoring, forms to illustrate collapse patterns, ops safety considerations
 - More pictures /infographics instead of texts in the guide.
 - Colour coding for different sections.
 - Format
 - Have an editable version for teams to input details such as contact info, BOO map.
 - Develop into a mobile app that can be personalized/customized

On the INSARAG Strategy development

- Inputs gathered from the Team Leaders will be combined with contributions already received (AP) and still expected (AEME, Americas) from the Regional Groups and regions are then expected to present it to the Steering Group in the form of concept notes with recommendations
- Concept notes will help shape the draft INSARAG Warsaw Declaration 2020 and the INSARAG strategy 2020-25

Other recommendations

- ESRI- DTC / Triage Processes
 - More tests and trials in upcoming INSARAG Exercises, UC trainings in 2019/20
 - IMWG to recommend a training road map for teams in all 3 regions in 2019/20.
- IEC process:
 - teams are encouraged to identify suitable candidates for the “Secretariat, Team Leaders, and Mentors Course” (to be held in Oman, 10-13 Feb 2020, Netherlands in June)
 - Existing classifiers/ mentors to attend the Refresher scheduled just prior to the IGM in Poland
 - Secretariat is asked to commission a review on best practices from the IEC/IERs from 2015 – an invitation for proposals will be shared with the INSARAG network.

14. Closing Remarks

Raul Bustos, President of the Bomberos de Chile provided closing remarks and handed a gift to the representative of Poland as hosts of the 2020 meeting. He then officially declared the meeting over and wished all participants a safe journey back home.

15. Links to Documents, Presentations and Photos:

- a. INSARAG Working Group meeting summaries and products can be found at: https://vosocc.unocha.org/rss/6199w_TeamLeadersMeetingChile2019.html
- b. All presentations from the Team Leaders Meeting 2019 can be accessed here: https://vosocc.unocha.org/rss/6199w_TeamLeadersMeetingChile2019.html
- c. Photos of the meeting can be found at: <http://portal.undac.org/pssuportal/portalrest/filessharing/download/public/bG7mTCYhnLHUwwa>
- d. Participants online feedback: https://vosocc.unocha.org/Reg/srvy413_Evaluation_TLM_Chile.html

ANNEXES:

Annex A: Participants List

Annex B: Meeting Agenda

Annex C1, C2, C3 and C4: Summary and Recommendations of Breakout Session 1

Annex D1, D2 and D3: Summary and Recommendations of Breakout Session 2
