

INSARAG
Asia-Pacific Regional Group
Strategic Plan 2016-2020



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Introduction and Intent

The Asia-Pacific (A-P) is the world's most vulnerable region to natural disasters. To enhance A-P's capability to respond to these natural - as well as man-made - disasters, countries in the region are building their capability in urban search and rescue (USAR) through the development of national light teams, as well as INSARAG medium and heavy classified teams.

The A-P Strategic Plan for Capability Building (2016-2020) aligns with the overarching INSARAG 2015-2020 Strategic Framework and sets out the vision of the region to achieve improved preparedness and disaster risk management through enhanced USAR capabilities by 2020. The Plan is intended to be dynamic and utilise various sources of information to build a comprehensive picture.

The Plan outlines the process that countries are encouraged to follow in seeking support in developing their USAR capability, including 'beyond the rubble' and 'national' response capabilities. The Strategic Plan is intended to be a living document that is reviewed and updated as needed.

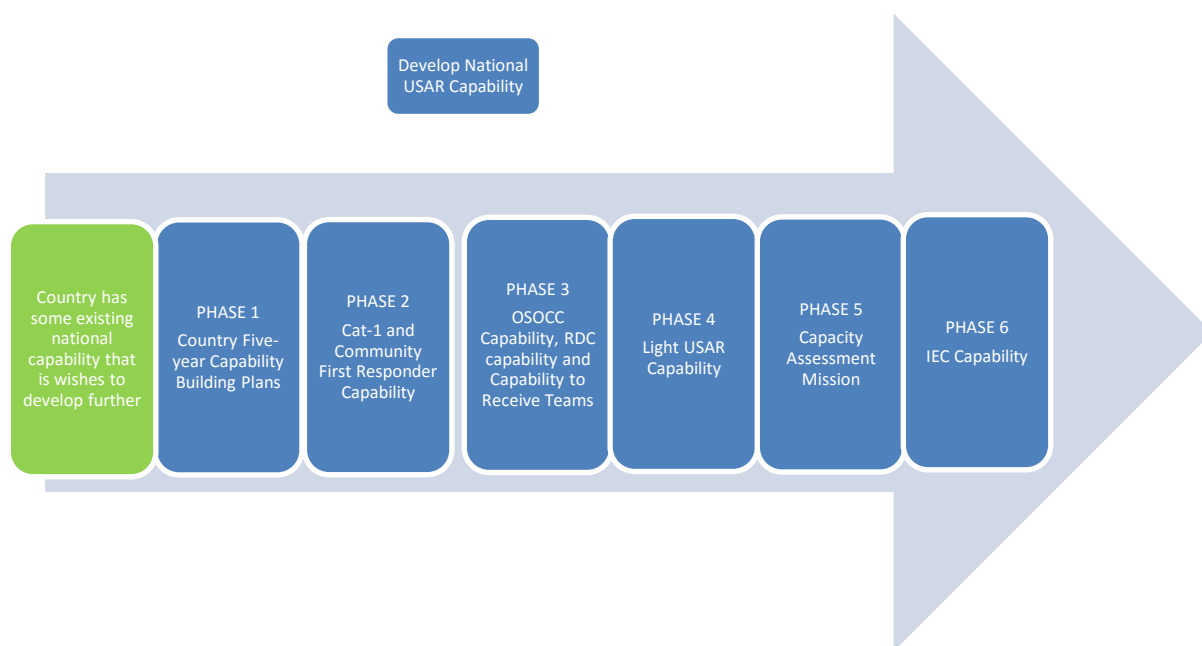
The five-year workplan in Annex A will be reviewed and updated annually at the regional meeting along with the annual workplan in Annex B for the following year. Asia-Pacific members are encouraged to link their annual workplans to the Strategic Plan's goals and objectives. Setting clear indicators and targets for capability development will support the process of matching countries that wish to build capabilities with those countries that are willing to support them with technical expertise and resourcing.

Strategic Framework

The Asia-Pacific Regional Group Strategic Framework aligns with the overarching INSARAG 2015-2020 Strategic Framework Goals and Objectives.

Purpose	Develop Asia-Pacific's Urban Search and Rescue capability to enable greater preparedness and disaster risk management	
Asia-Pacific Strategic Goals	Goal 1: Promote and support more effective National USAR Capabilities and national response preparedness Goal 2: Increase the efficiency of International USAR preparedness and response capability within the region	
Five-Year Objectives	Objectives	
	2020 Target	
	1. Develop a benchmark for current capability in the A-P region	The A-P region has a comprehensive register of capability in the region by December 2016 that is updated annually
	2. Members develop 5-year national capability development plans.	All countries seeking support with building capability from A-P members through to 2020 have developed plans by 2017
	3. Consider and develop national INSARAG classification/accreditation system	A-P region has a clear vision and agreement on a process for developing national classification/accreditation by 2018
4. A revised IER process meets A-P regional needs and interests	A-P has agreement on an IER process that meets its interests by the end of 2017.	

Developing Asia-Pacific Capability



The diagram above demonstrates the six proposed phases for developing national USAR capability. The intention is that countries that have developed a five-year capability building plan and that have a high vulnerability/high-risk profile, as well as the political support of their Government will be prioritised for capability building support.

Phase 1 – Country Five-year Capability Building Plans

During this phase, countries that intend to build USAR and national response capability will develop a five-year capability building plan. The plan should align with their National Disaster Management Framework. The capability building plan will:

- provide a national risk assessment,
- provide a self-assessment of existing capability,
- identify gaps in USAR response capability relevant to the country context,
- outline priority areas for training and development,
- identify resources/support that is likely required to address those priority areas (e.g. what can be sourced nationally and what support is likely to be required from regional partners).

The five-year plan should follow the trajectory outlined in the diagram above, and draw on INSARAG guidelines to inform the sequencing of their capability development process.

Phase 2 – Cat-1 and Community First Responder Capability

During Phase 2, countries will – in line with their five-year plan – develop and train the appropriate national emergency services on USAR Cat-1 response.

Emergency services can include: fire services, emergency medical services, national civil defence and disaster management offices, and police. The intention is that Cat-1 trained personnel will then undertake train-the-trainer courses to enable them to deliver First Responder training to communities. There is an existing INSARAG First Responder training package.

Phase 3 – VOSOCC Capability and Capability to Receive USAR Teams

During Phase 3, countries will develop capability to receive incoming USAR teams through training and development on Virtual OSOCC (VOSOCC), and Reception and Departure Centre (RDC) operations.

Phase 4 – Light Team Capability

The entry level into organisation of a national USAR team is the Light USAR capacity. The role of a light USAR team is outlined in the INSARAG Guidelines (2015, Volume II, [Manual A: Capacity Building](#)). An 'INSARAG National Classification' system may be developed in future, which would enable national light teams to train towards and receive a globally recognised classification.

Phase 5 – Capacity Assessment Mission

A USAR Capacity Assessment Mission aims to identify existing capacities and determine the required capacities according to the country's USAR objectives and needs. Under Phase 5, countries that have developed their five-year capability plan and subsequently built Cat-1 and First Responder capability may wish to request an assessment mission to provide recommendations on the subsequent implementation of USAR capacity development initiatives.

Phase 6 – IEC Capability

Under Phase 6, USAR teams which have the mandate to deploy internationally are eligible to apply for an IEC, provided it has the endorsement of its country's INSARAG Policy Focal Point.

Annual Workplans

To meet the Global and Asia-Pacific Regional objectives for capability building, the Asia-Pacific region – led by the Regional Chair and supported by UNOCHA FCSS as the INSARAG Secretariat - will develop an annual workplan (*Appendix B*) to be endorsed at the annual Asia-Pacific Regional meeting. The annual workplan looks out to the subsequent year to provide visibility and timely notice of the likely resources that will be required and committed across the region in the short-term. The indicative timeframes for this process are outlined in the table below.

Date	Relevant Meeting	Action	Responsibility
February	INSARAG Steering Group meeting (Geneva)	A-P members discuss capability building resourcing requirements for the region	A-P Chair to lead discussion supported by FCSS
July-August	N/A	Consult A-P members progress made against agreed annual workplan, and any updates required for the next annual workplan	A-P Chair supported by FCSS Regional Focal Point
August-September	N/A	Draft Annual Workplan for the following year provided to A-P members in advance of the A-P regional meeting.	A-P Chair supported by FCSS Regional Focal Point
September	Annual A-P Regional Meeting	Present and endorse A-P Annual Workplan for the following year	A-P Chair supported by FCSS Regional Focal Point

A-P countries that are not currently part of the INSARAG A-P network or do not attend the INSARAG A-P Regional Meetings, and approach OCHA or other members for support, will be guided to this Strategic Plan in the first instance to consider the requirements for seeking support. The first of these requirements will be to complete a national USAR five-year capability building plan if one does not already exist. The national five-year plan will provide the basis for informing the A-P regional workplan that is consulted with A-P members at the annual INSARAG A-P meeting to confirm support and resources available.

Countries are encouraged to direct requests for support through the UN OCHA A-P Focal Point and the A-P Regional Chair for consideration and inclusion in the annual workplan.

Attachment A – Five-Year USAR Capability Workplan

To be reviewed and updated annually

Country	Existing Capability	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Comment on Progress
New Zealand	Phase 6: IEC Heavy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> November - 72 hour USAR exercise A-P EX 2016 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cat 2 Course Cat 3 Course IER EXCON scenario development continues A-P EX 2017 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IER EXCON scenario development continues 72 hour USAR exercise A-P EX 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IER Practice exercise A-P EX 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IER AP EX 2020 	Phase 6: developing modularised capability to provide DART responses to Pacific Region.
Japan	Phase 6: IEC Heavy				Seek mentor for IER	IER	
Philippines	Phase 4-5. Scoping mission complete		Seek mentor for capacity building and IEC	Confirm mentor for IEC. Host Asia Pacific Exercise	IEC		Require a mentor ASAP
Laos	Phase 1:		Seek assistance to develop a 5 year plan	Move to phase 2: Cat 1 and Community First Responder			Assistance to develop 5 year plan for progressing through to next phases.
China	Phase 6: IEC Heavy. Developing provincial teams. Looking to have 5 provincial teams classified.	IEC for provincial team.			IER October		May require support for IECs but will create own classification process for internal teams.
Nepal	Phase 1:		Begin development of National 5-year plan Seek assistance to develop plan				Require resource and technical support to develop a national plan
Bangladesh	Phase 1:		Begin development of National Plan.				Require support in developing 5 year plan
Malaysia	Phase 6: IEC Heavy	IEC Complete	Domestic and overseas training. Host Asia Pacific Exercise	Domestic and overseas training. Develop infrastructure facilities at SMART HQ	Domestic and overseas training.	Engage mentor for IER	IER 2021
Cambodia	Phase 1 – 2: Have rescue capability but wish to align with INSARAG guidelines.	Require to align the current existing capability with INSARAG Guidelines. Seeking for assistance from Japan	Require to align the current existing capability with INSARAG Guidelines. Seeking for assistance from Japan				Require assessment for capability to respond to building collapse and vehicle accidents in accordance with INSARAG guidelines.
Korea	Phase 6:	IER					
Thailand	Phase 1- 2:		Apply for IEC in 2017		Host Asia Pacific Exercise		Have had a scoping mission. SCDF mentoring. Preparing for IEC 2021
Myanmar	Phase 1:						SCDF is assisting with support (?)
Indonesia	Phase 4:		Apply for IEC	Seek mentor for IEC	Confirm mentor for IEC	IEC	Will require support in readiness and training in preparation for IEC
Singapore	Phase 6: IEC Heavy	USAR Coordination Course 2016	Seek IER mentor	IER			Seek mentor for IER in 2017
Bhutan	Phase 1 – 2:		Developing a 5 year plan				Want to be able to deploy RDC. May aspire to light team status.

			Seeking support with development of plan				
Australia 1	Phase 6: IEC Heavy			IER September			Undergoing detailed planning for IER
Australia 2	Phase 6: IEC Heavy		IER September				Japan assisting

Attachment B – 2016 Workplan and 2017 Indicative Workplan

INSARAG Event	2016 Workplan		Resources / Support Required	Indicative 2017 Workplan		Resources / Support Required
	Date Scheduled	Location		Date Scheduled	Location	
Capacity Assessment Mission	April	Philippines				
INSARAG A-P Regional Exercise	25-29 July	Jogjakarta, Indonesia				
INSARAG A-P Regional Meeting	August	China				
Team Leaders Meeting	September	Tokyo, Japan				
UCC Training for A-P	November	Singapore				
RDC Workshop for DHL Staff	March	Indonesia				

Country	2017 Workplan			Resources / Support Required (e.g. external/donor support required?)	Indicative 2018 Workplan	Resources / Support Required
	Date Scheduled	National/ International Capability	Capability Building Description			
All Countries			AP Exercise.		AP Exercise	
Laos		Phase 1	Require assistance to develop 5 year plan	Assistance to develop plan	Move to phase 2	Assistance with planning
China		Phase 6	Developing classification process for provincial teams	Possibly		
Nepal		Phase 1	Begin development of national plan	Assistance to develop plan	Further development	Assistance to develop plan
Bangladesh		Phase 1	Begin development of national plan	Assistance to develop plan	Further development	Assistance to develop plan
Malaysia		Phase 6	Domestic and overseas training. Host Asia Pacific exercise	Participants for exercise.	Develop infrastructure facilities at SMART HQ	Potentially
Cambodia		Phase 1 - 2	Require to align the current existing capability with INSARAG Guidelines. Seeking for assistance from Japan	Will require support.		
Thailand		Phase 1 - 2	Apply for IEC for 2021	SCDF mentoring	Development for IEC	SCDF mentoring
Myanmar		Phase 1	Development plans	SCDF assisting	Development plans	SCDF assisting
Indonesia		Phase 4	Apply for IEC for 2020	Will require support and mentoring for IEC	Preparation for IEC	Will require support and mentoring for IEC
Singapore		Phase 6	Seek mentor for IER 2018	Mentor required	IER	Classifiers required
Bhutan		Phase 1 - 2	Development of 5 year plan	Assistance to develop plan		Assistance to develop plan
Australia 1	September	Phase 6	Seek mentor for IER	Mentor	IER	Classifiers
Australia 2	September	Phase 6	IER	Japan mentoring		
Philippines		Phase 4 - 5	Seek mentor for capacity building and IEC		Require mentor for IEC (2019). Host Asia Pacific Exercise	Participants for exercise.
Malaysia	September					

Yellow = to be assigned

Green = assigned