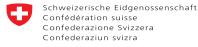




# INSARAG STEERING GROUP (ISG) MEETING

4 May 2021 1200 - 1500h CET (UTC +2)









#### **AGENDA**

Session	Agenda Item	Time
1	Opening Statements, Adoption of the Agenda	1200-1215
2	I) Workplan Progress Updates by the INSARAG Regional Chairs II) INSARAG Global Updates by the INSARAG Secretariat	1215-1255
3	Technical Working Groups Updates	1255-1330
	Virtual Tea/Coffee Break	1330-1340
4	Steering Group Decisions on Key Issues (from the New Year Teleconference 2021)	1340-1440
5	Summary of Key Decisions and Closing Statements	1440-1500
	Total time	180 minutes



INSARAG Global Chair Ambassador Manuel Bessler



Director a.i. of the Coordination Division

Mr. Rein Paulsen



**Chief of the Emergency Response Section and Secretary of INSARAG** 

Mr. Sebastian Rhodes Stampa



INSARAG Global Chair
Ambassador Manuel Bessler



**Director a.i. Coordination Division, OCHA** 

Mr. Rein Paulsen



**Chief of the Emergency Response Section and Secretary of INSARAG** 

Mr. Sebastian Rhodes Stampa

#### **SESSION 2. REGIONAL UPDATES**





Regional Co-Chair South Africa

Dr. Mmaphaka

Tau

Khangale

(Presenter)

Dr. Moses



Regional Chair
Peru
Mr. Alfredo
Murgueytio



Regional Chair (Acting) Indonesia Mr. Mohammad Barokna Haulah

#### **SESSION 2. ACHIEVEMENTS - AEME**

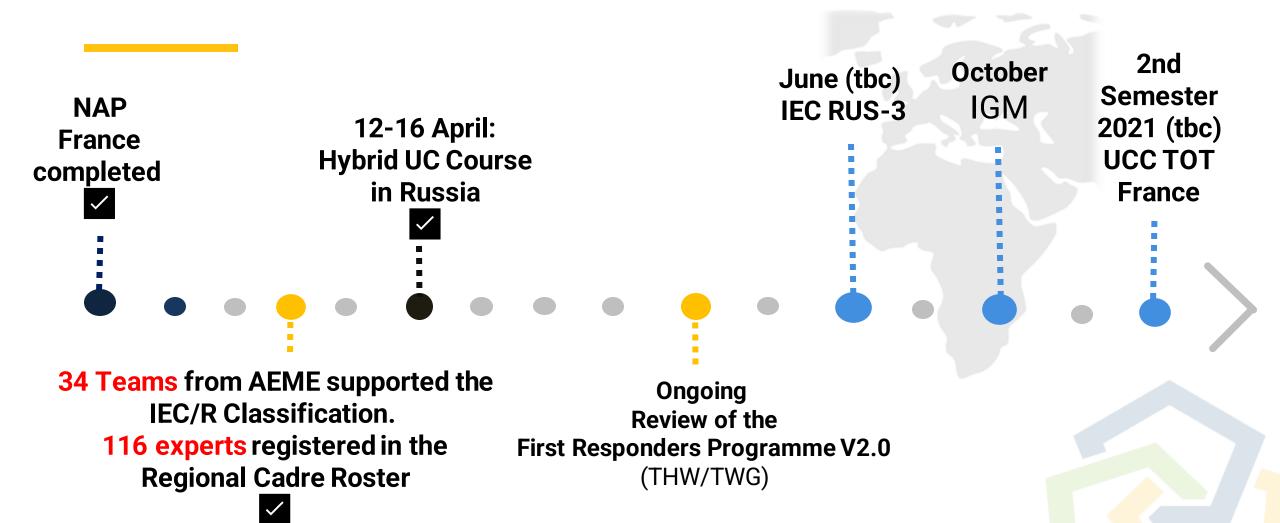
#### AEME - 2020 Review, Recalibrate and Adapt to be Fit for Purpose

- 1. Global meeting, Poland postponed to 2021.
- 2. Bolstering Partnerships: Partner the EU and Drafted the "IER in EU MODEX Guidelines for Stakeholders".
- 3. Leveraging on Technologies: ICMS training online.
- 4. Localization: 1<sup>st</sup> Responders Training to Iraq and Georgia.

#### **SESSION 2. ACHIEVEMENTS - AEME**

#### **Beirut Deployment**

- 1. Speed, Solidarity, Cooperation.
- 2. "Operational Response in a Pandemic" lessons shared in the AAR in Oct 2020 and during Beirut Port Explosions event on 19 April 2021 (HNPW side-event).
- 3. Reorganization and review SOPs to ensure health and safety of teams and the people we serve.



#### **SESSION 2. ACHIEVEMENTS - AMERICAS**

- 1. 2021 INSARAG Americas Activity Plan aligned to the INSARAG Strategic Plan 2021-2026.
- 2. The ICMS course was carried out on a bilingual virtual platform.
- 3. Advances in USAR accreditation processes at the national level and INSARAG recognition (NAP / IRNAP).
- 4. Advances in the design of GTA / GTR courses and USAR National Coordination.
- Organization of SIMEX INSARAG in the Americas led by Peru and the INSARAG Secretariat and with the participation of States and humanitarian organizations.

#### **Strategic Objective 1. Quality Standards**

- NAP / IRNAP group of regional experts are contributing to the development of the topic:
  - o IRNAP processes for two more countries: Panama and Honduras.
  - o Call to increase the number of the regional GTA / GTR roster members.
  - The GTA / GTR Expert Course design is in process.
  - Contribution of the region to the National Accreditation Working Group (NAWG).
- Participation and dissemination of the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks (HNPW).
- Initial coordination to develop the INSARAG Regional Newsletter.
- Translation of INSARAG Guides into Spanish by Colombia: editing phase to be posted soon in the INSARAG portal.
- Americas INSARAG virtual SIMEX with simultaneous interpretation.

#### **Strategic Objective 2. Localization**

- ICMS (INSARAG Coordination Management System) workshop with more than 150 participants using a virtual platform with simultaneous interpretation.
- The regional group of experts on USAR Coordination is supporting the design of the USAR National Coordination course that will be ready for the second semester including:
  - Training modules ready for presential implementation.
  - An ad-hoc preparatory workshop to be implemented for the country in which the course is held.
  - A virtual version of the course.

#### **Strategic Objective 3. Flexible Response**

- A Regional Working Group on Flexible Response is going to be formed to develop a regional document which will contribute to the global discussion.
- Countries consulting internally to propose their participation in the Flexible Response Working Group to be established soon at the global level.

#### **Strategic Objective 4. Partnerships**

- Coordination with PAHO/WHO to support SIMEX INSARAG to be held in June and to develop the Community of Practice with the medical component of the USAR teams for the second semester.
- Initial coordination with OBA to plan joint activities.

#### **SESSION 2. ACHIEVEMENTS - ASIA-PACIFIC (AP)**

- 1. Informal Asia-Pacific regional New-Year Call
  - Handover of Chairmanship
  - Finalization of regional work plan and priorities
- 2. Regional IRNAP Working Group
  - Finalizing TOR of the working group
  - Developing TOR of TSG/TRG





3. HNPW Joint session with CMCoord Regional Consultative Group

#### **SESSION 2. INSARAG AP REGIONAL STRATEGY 2021-2026**

	Quality Standards	Localization	Flexible Response	Partnerships	
INSARAG Strategic Objectives 2021-2026	Strengthen global standards for a high quality of national and international USAR response	Enhance frontline response coordination by localizing INSARAG methodology and concepts	To ensure a comprehensive and adaptable humanitarian response, INSARAG may promote discussions on possible flexible approaches to additional rescue operations, beyond USAR	Boost and develop partnerships for sustainable participation, ownership and governance	
AP Strategic Priorities	Enhancing multi-level capacity building and protection in humanitarian responses	Strengthening effective national and regional response during a disaster	Flexible response and deployment of USAR capacity	Strengthening engagement with partners in disaster planning and management	
AP Priorities	Conducting virtual workshops and webinars on best practices and expertise in emergency response	Strengthen USAR capacity at the national and regional level through the implementation of national accreditation	Promote INSARAG Methodology to be fit for purpose in different responses	Strengthen collaborative partnership nationally and/or regionally for effective coordination within humanitarian responders	

### Conducting virtual workshops and webinars on best practices and expertise in emergency response

- 1. International Webinar:
  - a. Cultural heritage safeguards;
  - b. Gender and protection;
  - c. Operation during Covid-19.
- 2. ICMS training for AP region
- 3. New Zealand IER
- 4. Malaysia UC Course
- 5. South Korea UCC course
- 6. Guidelines and ESRI Workshop
- 7. INSARAG AP Regional ERE

### Strengthen USAR capacity in national and regional level through implementation of national accreditation

- Indonesia NAP Kick Off
- 2. Singapore 1st IRNAP Exercise
- 3. Sri Lanka Capacity Building Assistance
- 4. IRNAP AP Regional Road Map Seminar
- 5. Classifier Training for AP Region
- 6. Guidelines and ESRI Workshop
- 7. Malaysia UC Course
- 8. South Korea UCC course
- 9. International webinar
  - a) National accreditation

#### **Promote INSARAG Methodology to be fit for purpose in different responses**

- 1. International Webinar
  - a) Flexible response

### Strengthen collaborative partnership nationally and/or regionally for effective coordination within humanitarian responders

- 1. International Webinar:
  - a. Coordination response mechanism (AHA Center).
- 2. Joint session discussion with RCG on Civil-Military Coordination (HNPW).

S/No	Key Event	Period	Location	Remarks
1	Informal AP regional call	24 Feb	Online	Completed
2	HNPW Joint session with RCG	27 Apr	Online	Completed
3	ISG	May 4	Online	Completed
4	New Zealand IER	May	New Zealand	Further postponed
5	Malaysia UC Course	October	Malaysia	Postponed from 2020
6	INSARAG AP Regional ERE	2021	China	Postponed from 2020
7	Classifier Training for AP Region	2021	Singapore	Postponed from 2020
8	Guidelines and ESRI Workshop	2021	Singapore	Postponed from 2020/ Change to online TBC
9	Korea UCC Course	September	Korea	Change to national training TBC
10	INSARAG AP Regional Meeting	Oct 2021	Poland	
11	Singapore 1st IRNAP Exercise	Oct 2021	Singapore	
12	IRNAP AP regional Road Map Seminar		Indonesia	

**INSARAG AP regional Webinar Series** 

- Gender, Diversity, and Protection
- Cultural Heritage Safeguards
- National Accreditation
- Flexible Response

13

- Disaster response Coordination

Online

#### **SESSION 2. GLOBAL UPDATES - 2020 KEY MILESTONES**

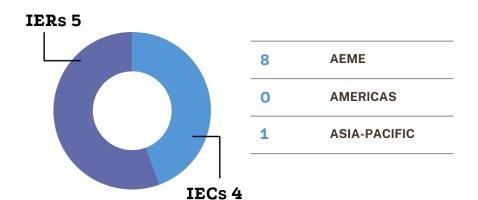
- Review/Recalibrate Methodology and Systems Guidelines V 2020 Launched
- The Network Adapts:
  - Response in a Pandemic Beirut Response 4 August 2021
  - IEC/R 2-Year Validity Extensions, IEC/R Review WG
  - Guide for Field Response in a Pandemic
  - ICMS operationalized
  - DACC New Flexible Response WG leads development
- Going Virtual Meetings, Trainings and Exercises
- Partnerships IERs in the EU MODEX Guidelines



#### SESSION 2. GLOBAL UPDATES - QUALITY STANDARDS: IEC/R

#### **INSARAG IEC/R 2021**

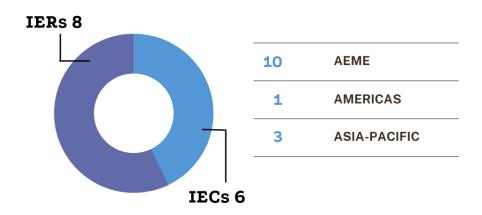
Total number of postponed IEC/R: 9



#### INSARAG Preparedness · Response

#### **INSARAG IEC/R 2022**

Total number of postponed IEC/R: 14





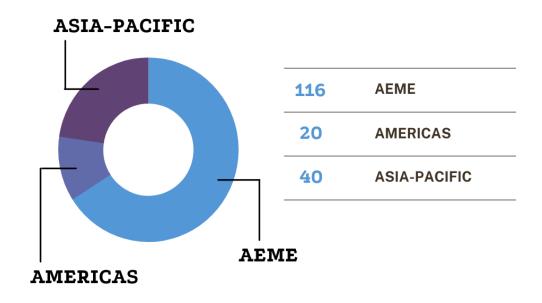


# SESSION 2. GLOBAL UPDATES - QUALITY STANDARDS: IEC/R

- IEC/R 2-year Exceptional Validity Extensions: 96% Acceptance
- **2. IEC** prioritized: **10 IECs** in 2021 and 2022.
- 3. Regional Roster Pool **176 applicants** 
  - 109% Quota achieved!
- 4. IEC/R Review WG formed
- 5. **Engaging** WHO EMT- operational guidelines and checklists for teams, preparations for response, Joint Statement on response.

#### IEC/R: REGIONAL ROSTER

Total number of classifiers: 176





### SESSION 3. TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS ACHIEVEMENTS IEC/R REVIEW WORKING GROUP

- 7 Global WG meetings.
- First revision of roster of classifiers needs updating.
- Issued proposals:
  - Recommended requirements for positions of the roster.
  - Updated classifier application.
- Review of the IEC/R system report.
  - Identifiying entity/WG, urgency, importance.

### SESSION 3. TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS UPDATES IEC/R REVIEW WORKING GROUP

- Analysis of requirements for IER extension.
- Continue work on IEC/R system recommendation matrix (specific tasks).
- Clarification of TOR of WG is needed: will the WG continue?

### SESSION 3. TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS ACHIEVEMENTS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP (IMWG)

- All classified and IEC in process Teams have received their ESRI user licence.
- Basic trainings for the 3 regions.
- Training Material, Handbooks and YouTube Videos have been uploaded to the ICMS HUB.
- Held several individual ICMS training sessions on demand.
- Presenting ICMS at the ESRI GIS conference.
- Booth at the HNPW Exhibition Area for ICMS and VR ERE.
- Working together with TWG in a subgroup on the update of the UCC manual.
- First Mission for ICMS in Beirut, triggered interest from several UN organisations.

### SESSION 3. TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS UPDATES INFORMATION MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP (IMWG)

- Finalizing the ICMS version 2.0 (Guidelines 2020).
- Review and update the training material.
- Develop the UCC staff training in close cooperation with TWG.
- Advanced trainings for ICMS users.
- Testing the use of QuickCapture (ESRI) for a rapid assessment tools.
- Exploring the possibilities to provide UNDAC, UNEP and UNESCO with relevant mission data.
- Exploring the possibility to provide the Damage Assessment team with relevant forms and dashboards.
- Integration of Drones images as Map Layers for the ICMS Dashboard.
- Working on a Mentor (Classified teams) concept for NAP teams.

### SESSION 3. TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS UPDATES INFORMATION MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP (IMWG)

#### **Planning Virtual Reality Earthquake Response Exercise**

- INSARAG can run pilot test ERE virtual SIMEX at no cost.
- In the second half of 2021, with invitation open to interested USAR teams from all 3 regions?
- The system is scalable and can be used as hybrid version.
- The system can address language issues for individual training? For an INSARAG ERE it is English.
- How much is the system going to cost?
  - It starts at around 8000 Euro / year / license.
  - Share costs maybe by course fee (200 US\$ per person).
  - With this we can also replace our existing situation rooms (hybrid version).

### SESSION 3. TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS ACHIEVEMENTS LIGHT TEAM WORKING GROUP - Brad Commens, Rob Davis; Co-Chairs

- COVID-19 has impacted on planned IEC's.
- Classified Light USAR IEC assurance process completed and approved by INSARAG.
- Thanks to Arjan Stam for his leadership and passion as the Chair of the LTWG. Arjan will remain with the group in a consultative role.
- Brad Commens and Rob Davis approved as the joint Chair for the LTWG.
- Classified Light USAR concept approved at ISG 2020, with the first Light IEC exercise planned for June 2020 (@Fire Germany).
- This exercise has currently been delayed until November 2021 due to the pandemic.

# SESSION 3. TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS UPDATES LIGHT TEAM WORKING GROUP - Brad Commens, Rob Davis; Co-Chairs

- This first Light USAR Classification will help shape the classification process for future Light USAR IEC assessments (eg. GEA, SARAID).
- Review of Light USAR Classification following the first IEC to confirm assurance standards and to record any learnings for future consideration.
- Future LTWG meeting (Virtual) planned prior to November IEC.
- LTWG meeting planned to coincide with TL meeting in Poland (October 2021).

# SESSION 3. TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS COMPOSITION MEDICAL WORKING GROUP (MWG)

#### Membership

- Asia Pacific (Australia, China, Japan)
- Africa, Europe, Middle East (United Kingdom, Netherlands, France)
- Americas (United States, Chile)
- WHO

# SESSION 3. TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS ACHIEVEMENTS MEDICAL WORKING GROUP (MWG)

- COVID 19 Guidance updated March 2021
  - Mobilization
  - Transportation and arrival
  - Operations
  - Demobilization



# SESSION 3. TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS UPDATES MEDICAL WORKING GROUP (MWG)

- COVID 19 Guidance updates as required
  - Joint work with WHO EMT

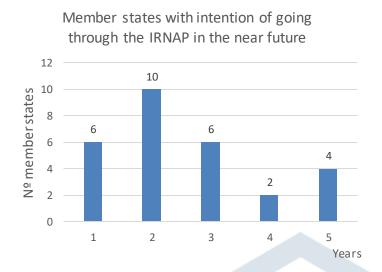
INSARAG Guidelines

Additional Technical Reference Notes

# SESSION 3. TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS ACHIEVEMENTS NATIONAL ACCREDITATION WORKING GROUP (NAWG)

#### Phase 1: Analysis of existing NAP and IRNAP

Global IRNAP Survey - Dec 2020	Total	Americas	AEME	AP
Member States that responded survey	48	11	25	12
Member States that have a NAP	24	7	13	4
Intention of going through IRNAP	26	9	9	8
Require assistance to develop further	20	5	9	6



#### **Key findings:**

- Great interest in the IRNAP process, with high demand to the INSARAG network in the near future.
- Disparity in national USAR and NAP systems is a challenging factor for a global approach.

### SESSION 3. TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS UPDATES NATIONAL ACCREDITATION WORKING GROUP (NAWG)

#### Phase 2: May 2021 - August 2022

### I. IRNAP Technical Guidance Note

 Update of the Technical Guidance Note on the IRNAP, serving as a guide and encompassing the basic contents of the process adjusted for all regions.

### II. IRNAP Checklist and related documents

 Update IRNAP Checklist and all related documents that serve as guidance for member States.

#### III. IRNAP Training

- Training development for the TSG/TRG developed with objectives and program, adaptable to each region.
- Links to IEC process.

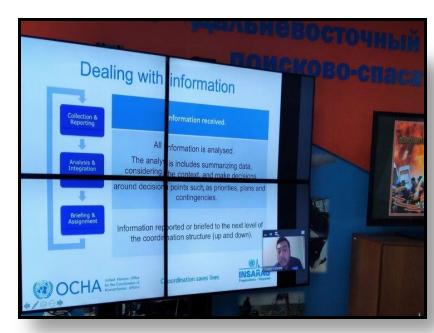
IV. Remote Support to Regions: on methodological issues and interpretation of standards to the Technical Support Groups and Technical Recognition Groups (TSGs/TRGs)

## SESSION 3. TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS COMPOSITION TRAINING WORKING GROUP (TWG)

Name	Country	Position
Dewey Perks	USA	Chair
Joshua Turner	Australia	Member
Kira Chebakova	Russian Federation	Member
Paul Lawless	United Kingdom	Member
Jacob Bolwinkel	Denmark	Member
Tsukasa Katsube	Japan	Member
Peter Goxharaj	Germany	Member

### SESSION 3. TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS ACHIEVEMENTS TRAINING WORKING GROUP (TWG)

- EMERCOM of Russia conducted a **USAR Coordination training course** in Khabarovsk from 12-16 April for the RUS-10 team that hopes to soon have an IEC.
- The course was conducted by UC instructors from classified Russian teams (RUS-1 and RUS-2) and by members of TWG (Tsukasa Katsube, Joshua Turner), IMWG (Rob Norman) who presented "virtually".
- This is the first time a UC course was conducted in this format, and shows great cooperation of TWG, IMWG and the INSARAG community to benefit the network.



### SESSION 3. TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS UPDATES TRAINING WORKING GROUP (TWG)

#### **USAR Coordination Manual Revision**

- Joint project of the Information Management and Training Working Groups: Kira Chebakova, Solveig Thorvaldsdóttir, Paul Lawless, and Rob Norman.
- Supported by ERS: Lucien Jaggi and Roberto Colangelo.

### SESSION 3. TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS UPDATES TRAINING WORKING GROUP (TWG) - TIMELINE

#### Timeline for 2021

Target is to complete the revision by 1 July. Once done it will be sent to the IM/T WGs for review.

- In August, the Subgroup will reconcile comments.
- In September, the Subgroup will prepare for the TL Meeting.
- In October, the Subgroup will present the revised manual during the TL Meeting.
- In November, the Subgroup will reconcile comments from the TL Meeting.
- In December, the Subgroup will hand over the manual to the Secretariat and disband.

## SESSION 3. TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS UPDATES TRAINING WORKING GROUP (TWG)

#### TWG for 2021

- Begin revision of the UC Training Program in July, after receiving the revised UC Manual.
- During the April meeting, the WG will divide into two groups to work on different items; the WG will still join as one at least once monthly.
- 1st Responder Course Peter Goxharaj.
- EU IER Manual Paul Lawless.
- IEC/R Review Tuskasa Katsube and Dewey Perks.
- Work with USAR.NL to deliver a 2022 TL, Mentor, and Secretariat training program – Jacob Bolwinkel.
- Associate Experts Explanation.

### SESSION 3. TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS ACHIEVEMENTS TRANSITIONAL GUIDELINES REVIEW GROUP (T-GRG)

- Hand over, take over from GRG 2015-2020.
- Draft TOR's to be endorsed by the ISG.
- Draft internal working plan.
- Consulted working groups on running business.

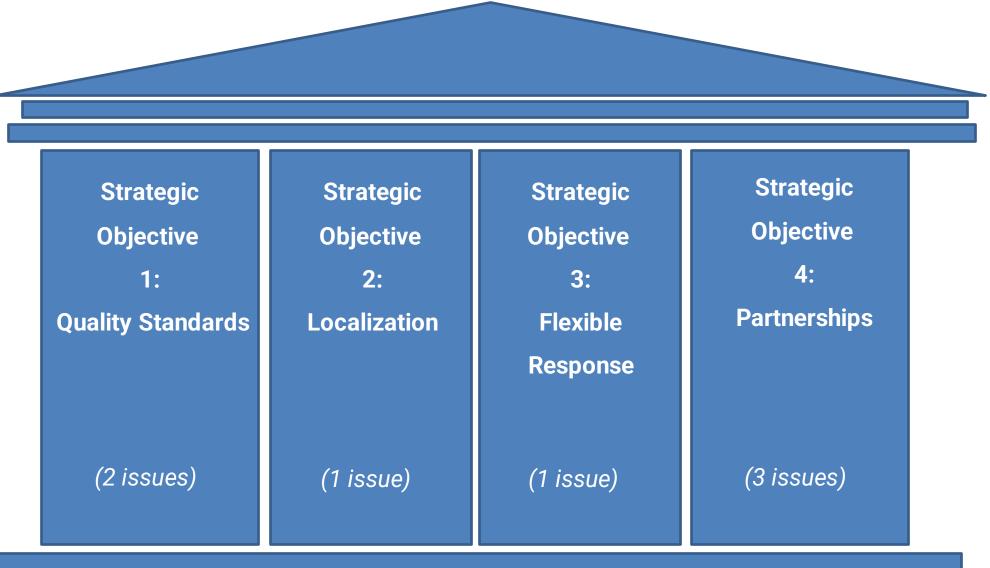
### SESSION 3. TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS UPDATES TRANSITIONAL GUIDELINES REVIEW GROUP (T-GRG)

- Discussing workflow with other WG's.
- Discussing our internal working plan in T-GRG.
- Keeping track of discussions in other WG's.
- Brain storming appearence of revised GL's in 2025.

# VIRTUAL TEA/COFFEE BREAK - 10 MINUTES -







**INSARAG Strategic Plan 2021-2026** 

**Strategic Objective 1. Quality Standards** 

**1.a Virtual Training and Platforms** 

- ERE V 2.0 for provisional Endorsement
- Peru shares SIMEX plans for The Americas.

**Strategic Objective 1. Quality Standards** 

1.b Review of Response Conduct

Remarks by the INSARAG Secretary and the INSARAG Global Chair.



#### **Strategic Objective 2. Localization**

#### 2.a First Responders Programme V2.0

- AEME Co-Chair presents on community response and localization.
- TWG shares progress updates on the FRP V 2.0 Review.

**Strategic Objective 2. Localization** 

2.a First Responders Programme V2.0

Importance of local response & localisation in disaster response
(Dr. Musiwalo Moses Khangale, Director of Fire Services of the Republic of South Africa)

#### Rationale for Investing in local action

- Many regions including Southern Africa are experiencing an exponential increase in weatherrelated disaster risks, linked to climate change & variability, increase in urbanisation, growing wild land urban interfaces, etc.
- These risks are compounded by limited institutional capacity at local level.
- Tropical storm Eloise that originated in the Mozambique channel during January / February 2021
  and ravaged parts of South resulting in over 30 fatalities is an example of these hazards. Most of
  the fatalities were caused by drowning thus there is an urgent need to enhance water rescue
  and wide area search capabilities.
- Communities are first responders to these disaster occurrences their first-hand knowledge of the issues affecting them is critical to enhance preparedness & build resilience to hazards.
- Local community response strategies and programmes should be flexible and context specific.

#### Rationale for Investing in local action

- Global disaster response networks such as INSARAG must be responsive to this emerging reality and put measures in place to respond to the evolving needs of communities outside typical structural collapse scenarios.
- While structured response offered by classified USAR Teams remains necessary, INSARAG should consider adapting its capabilities to optimally respond to disaster incidents triggered by severe weather occurrences.
- Investing in local community response resonates with the UN slogan of "as local as possible" and will contribute to ensuring that INSARAG remains fit-for-purpose.
- The flexible response training package will be beneficial for many developing countries especially in Africa where there is limited structured / organized rescue capabilities.

#### **Concluding remarks**

- Local level response and localisation is a critical component of an effective disaster response system.
- Fit-for-purpose governance arrangements must be put in place to ensure accountability by local teams involved in disaster response initiatives.
- Local risk dynamics must be considered when developing flexible response training packages – avoid a one-size-fits-all mentality.
- Funding should be sourced to support implementation of flexible response training initiatives.

Strategic Objective 2. Localization

2.a First Responders Programme V2.0

THW and TWG to share progress update.

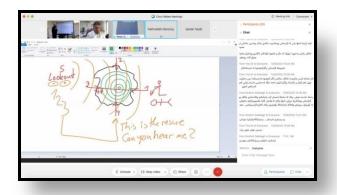
- Revision at final stage.
- Now training course also virtual.
- · Course material updated.
- Based on intl. Adult Education Standards.



#### 2.a First Responders Programme V2.0

FRT course will fit for localization and the demands of modern training:

- Specific course for prof. First Responders such as Fire Fighters.
- More detailed and "from scratch" course for normal First Responders i.e. citizens.
- More Graphics (Flowcharts, pictures, tactical drawings).
- 16 sessions virtual courses (plus final "face to face" refresher day and exercise).
- New Trainers Handbook.



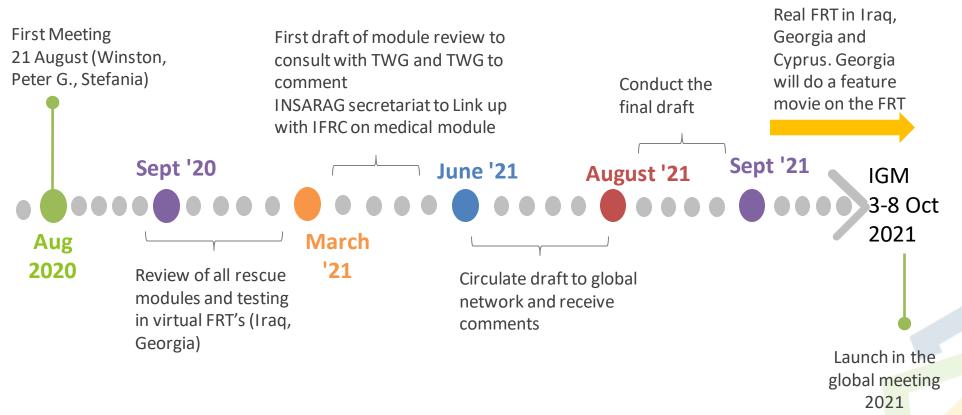






### SESSION 4. ISG'S DECISIONS ON 7 KEY ISSUES - Timeline

#### 2.a Timeline First Responders Training Package



**After COVID:** 

#### **Strategic Objective 3. Flexible Response**

#### 3.a New Flexible Response Working Group (FRWG)

- Continue the global dialogue towards a Global Position for INSARAG.
- Develop the Damage Assessment and Coordination Centre Concept.
- Develop INSARAG's approach to Response to Cultural Heritage Sites.
- Invitations to members EXTENDED until 31 May 2021.

#### **Basarnas - Flexible Response**

Basarnas Overview (Mr. Barokna Haulah, Acting Policy Focal Point Indonesia)

 National Search and Rescue Agency of the Republic of Indonesia (Basarnas) was formed under an international mandate

**Transports accidents** 

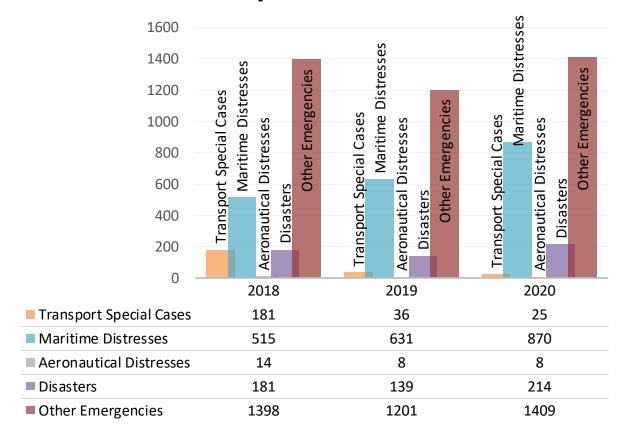
**Disasters** 

**Other Emergencies** 

2. BASARNAS is tasked to respond aeronautical and maritime distresses, disasters in emergency response phase, and other emergencies both national and international levels

3. BASARNAS cooperates with government agencies, Indonesia armed forces (TNI), police, private sectors, NGOs and foreign SAR authorities in conduct of SAR operations

#### **Search and Rescue Operations**





#### **Adoption of INSARAG methodology**

- 1. INA-01 personnel in SAR Operations.
- 2. Component based tasking.
- 3. Establishment of Basarnas BoO.
- 4. Staff aids.
- 5. Search and Rescue Techniques.







#### **Lessons learnt**

Identifying the needs Strengthen capacity building other than USAR Develop networking and cooperation with other emergency teams Support to acquire additional equipment and personnel Adopt INSARAG methodology to fit the purposes

**Strategic Objective 4. Partnerships** 

4.a INSARAG Global Meeting (IGM)

Poland presents updates on the IGM.



#### **Strategic Objective 4. Partnerships**

#### 4.b Guidelines for Stakeholders for IERs in the EU MODEX

- Developed by INSARAG EU Experts, reviewed by WGs, and in close collaboration with EU Partners.
- Statements from the EU and OCHA-INSARAG Secretary.

#### 4.b Guidelines for Stakeholders for IERs in the EU MODEX









**Strategic Objective 4. Partnerships** 

4.c \*New Item. Preparedness and response in a pandemic: current plans and good practices

Turkey AFAD's operational experience during a pandemic.



#### **Preparedness for the pandemic**

- 1. When the Covid-19 pandemic began, we started to arrange country-wide shelters for those who would come from abroad.
- 2. Guesthouses, high-capacity hotels and dormitories -anticipating that education may be suspended-, were determined as priority places.
- 3. This preparation was conducted in 81 provinces across the country.



#### International Support

- 1. From the beginning of the pandemic until now, 290,000 foreign nationals left our country with our direct or indirect help from March 17 until June 11 when pandemic-related restrictions were lifted.
- 2. Received aid requests of different categories (material grants, cash assistance, purchase/export permits) from 158 countries, and provided aid to 155 countries so far.



#### Activities related to those coming from abroad

- 1. 76,310 citizens coming from abroad were observed in 169 student dormitories in 77 provinces.
- 2. Shelter, nutrition, and hygiene needs of the citizens settled on dormitories were fully met by AFAD's coordination, and 2,106 personnel, 418 vehicles, and 2 mobile coordination trucks contributed to these efforts.
- 3. In this period, only 14 of our personnel were infected by Covid-19.
- 4. The reception and placing to dormitories of citizens coming from abroad and taking them to their homes in 81 cities all around Turkey has been conducted and coordinated by AFAD staff.



#### **VEFA Social Support Groups**

- Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, in our country, Vefa Social Support Groups has been established among public institutions, local administrations, AFAD, Red Crescent, police and gendarmerie to meet the needs of the vulnerable groups. We contributed to help our citizens by participating in VEFA groups with our staff in 81 provinces and our AFAD volunteers.
- 2. Through VEFA Social Support Groups, 6,649,461 households were reached in 62 days, and all their needs from pension to food, from medicine to hygiene materials, were provided for those over 65 years old and those with chronic diseases.



#### Response Teams

- Maybe the biggest response experience for us during the pandemic was the earthquake that hit İzmir on October 30, 2020.
- Covid-19 tests were conducted to our response teams working in the aftermath of the earthquake based on Samos island on October 30, 2020, which affected our province of Izmir, before arriving at the region. The existing capacity of the responding teams on duty has been preserved.



#### Response Teams

- 1. The intervention teams were observed during their duties in the region, and those who were suspicious took tests. Masks and disinfectant were periodically distributed. For the comfort of the staff who were more stressed due to the pandemic, single rooms were arranged in hotels.
- 2. Teams took the tests before their departure and after the completion of the tasks. The pandemic was still going on and if they were infected, there was a possibility that they could pass the infection to their places of destination.
- 3. After the teams' return to their provinces, they took tests for control purposes there to ensure they were not infected.



#### **SESSION 5. SUMMARY OF ISG'S 7 DECISIONS**

#### The ISG:

- 1. Agrees on a provisional endorsement of the International ERE V 2.0 and welcomes Peru's Virtual SIMEX.
- 2. Looks forward to the report and recommendations on the USAR Teams Review of Response Conduct by the Ad-Hoc Team of Experts.
- 3. Welcomes the opportunity to review the First Responders Program (FRP) V2.0 and its endorsement at the IGM.

#### **SESSION 5. SUMMARY OF ISG'S 7 DECISIONS**

#### The ISG:

4. Encourages suitable Experts to join and contribute to the Flexible Response Working Group (FRWG) to facilitate global discussions. The call for applicants is extended to the 31 May.

5. Agreed that the 3rd INSARAG Global Meeting will be conducted virtually in October and hosted by Poland. Good lessons from the HNPW will be adopted. The network will be consulted on the agenda.

#### **SESSION 5. SUMMARY OF ISG'S 7 DECISIONS**

#### The ISG:

- 6. Welcomes the close cooperation with the EU and <u>endorses</u> the "INSARAG IER in the EU MODEX Guidelines".
- 7. Welcomes the exchange of ideas amongst Member States in preparedness and response initiatives in a pandemic.

Welcomes the Joint Statement of the INSARAG MWG and WHO EMT on "Field Response During Times of COVID-19 Outbreak"

Encourages ongoing virtual technical workshops led by the regions and the WGs to strengthen our preparedness for effective response.

#### **SESSION 5. CLOSING STATEMENTS**



INSARAG Global Chair
Ambassador Manuel Bessler



Chief of the Response Support Branch
Ms. Edem Wosornu

#### **SESSION 5. CLOSING STATEMENTS**



**Chief of the Response Support Branch** 

Ms. Edem Wosornu

#### **SESSION 5. CLOSING STATEMENTS**



INSARAG Global Chair
Ambassador Manuel Bessler





# THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION AT THE INSARAG STEERING GROUP MEETING 2021





