



The world is changing, as are the challenges we face in the wake of natural disasters. In 2021 we have been tested, with the earthquake in Haiti, forest fires and European floods, which is why INSARAG must continue to think beyond the rubble. Despite the challenges, the network continues to remain strong.

- AMBASSADOR MANUEL BESSLER, INSARAG GLOBAL CHAIR



@Fire Germany, First Light Team Classification, NOV 2021. Credit: INSARAG

2021 was a challenging year for the **International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG)** community. Nevertheless, the network recalibrated and used this time to focus on the new Strategic Objectives outlined in the INSARAG Strategic Plan 2021 - 2026, which aims to enhance **localization** and **flexible response** efforts. INSARAG resumed its training activities by conducting INSARAG External

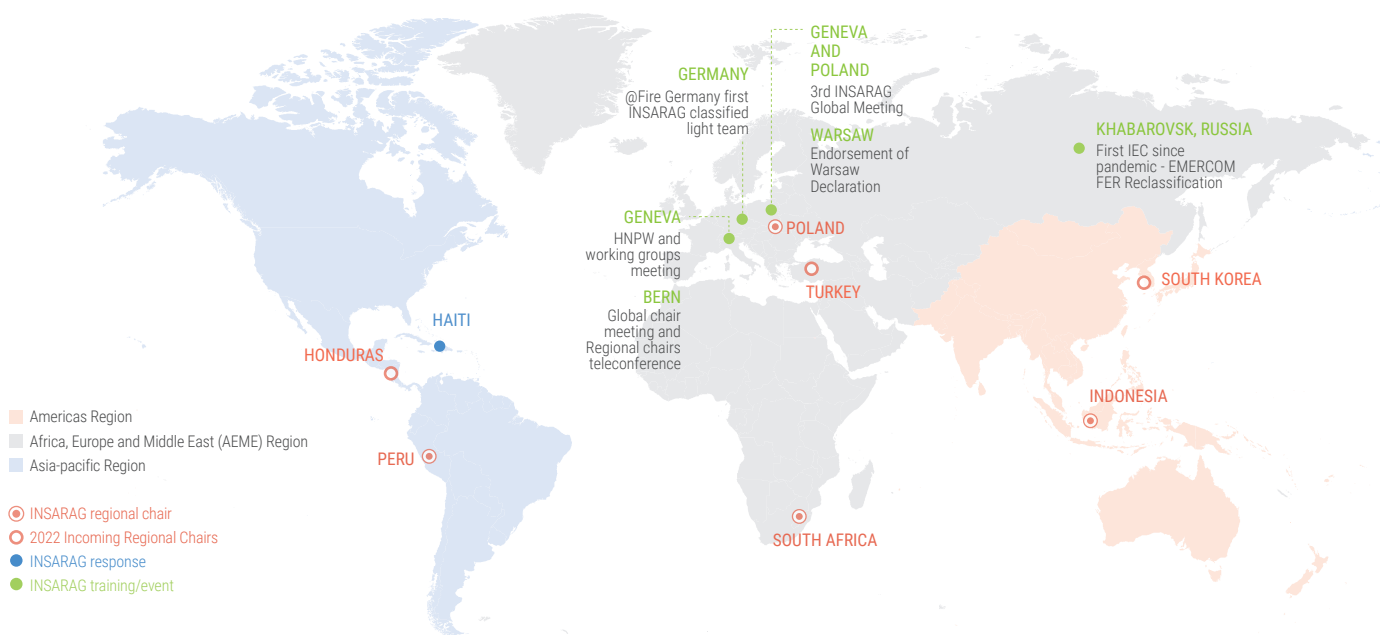
Classification/Reclassifications (IEC/R) for the first time after 22 months of being postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year also gave the network the opportunity to reflect on and commemorate the past 30 years of its achievements, especially during the third INSARAG Global Meeting (IGM), co-hosted virtually by the Government of Poland and the INSARAG Secretariat.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- IEC/R: EMERCOM Far East Russia (FER), Swiss Rescue, @fire Germany (first Light IEC), Pompiers de l'urgence internationale (PUI)
- INSARAG's 30-year commemoration and third INSARAG Global Meeting
- Endorsement of the Warsaw Declaration
- Virtual Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ERSIMEX) for all three regions.
- Creation of the Flexible Response Working Group (FRWG) and its sub-working streams: Global Position, Damage Assessment Coordination Centre (DACC) and Response to Cultural Heritage
- Joint Statement issued by the Medical Working Group of INSARAG and Emergency Medical Team Initiative of the World Health Organization regarding field response where there is a threat of COVID-19.
- Response to the Haiti Earthquake
- Development of the European Union Module Exercises (EU MODEX)/IER Guidelines

## INSARAG BY LOCATION



# 30 YEARS OF INSARAG

**Strengthen Quality, Predictability, Speed, and Flexibility in Support of National and Local Capacities.**

On 6 October 2021, the Government of Poland and the INSARAG Secretariat virtually co-hosted the 3rd IGM, with guidance and support from the Global, Regional and Working Group Chairs.

The community commemorated and reflected on the INSARAG's life-saving achievements over the last 30 years, shared good practices to remain flexible, and outlined the way forward to improve its operational standards, concepts, and

methodologies to continue saving lives. The [Warsaw Declaration](#), which encapsulated these concepts, was unanimously endorsed during the IGM.

350 participants from over 150 Member States and organizations attended the meeting, and explored the [Virtual Exhibition Area](#), a special platform showcasing regional and international projects in search and rescue, and the [Canvas Sheet](#) dedicated to the memories of the past 30 years.



INSIEME Classification Exercise, Nov 2021. Credit: INSARAG

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2026: IMPLEMENTATION

The [Strategic Plan 2021-2026](#) outlines the vision, overarching goals and strategic objectives of the INSARAG network, as endorsed by its Global and Regional Chairs during the INSARAG New Year Teleconference in January 2021. It sets out four Strategic Objectives for the Network: **Quality Standards, Localization, Flexible Response, and Partnerships**. The objectives feed into a global framework which guides the INSARAG Regional Groups' strategies to improve urban search and rescue (USAR) response and fulfil the network's mandate of saving lives.



### Quality Standards

Strengthening global standards to produce high quality national and international USAR responses.



### Localization

Enhancing frontline response coordination by localizing INSARAG methodology and concepts.



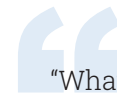
### Flexible Response

Ensuring a comprehensive and adaptable emergency response by promoting discussions on flexible approaches to additional rescue operations beyond USAR.



### Partnerships

Boosting and developing partnerships for sustainable participation, ownership and governance.



“What is closest to my heart is to see OCHA colleagues working as a team, delivering with high quality, mobilizing partnerships and advancing solutions to save lives and to support people caught up in disasters.”

- MS. WAFAA SAEED, DIRECTOR OF OCHA'S COORDINATION DIVISION.



“Over the past 30 years, INSARAG has worked hand in hand with local communities to enhance the agenda of localization, a key pillar of the INSARAG Strategic Plan. The INSARAG Guidelines, Strategic Objectives and operational norms are the instruments that enable INSARAG to adapt to the challenging times we face.”

- MS. EDEM WOSORNU, CHIEF OF THE RESPONSE SUPPORT BRANCH.

INSIEME Classification Exercise, Nov 2021. Credit: INSARAG



## ACTIVITIES IN 2021

### JANUARY

INSARAG New Year Teleconference with Global, Regional, and Working Group Chairs

### FEBRUARY

INSARAG Coordination Management System (ICMS) Training for INSARAG Teams (led by the Information Management Working Group (IMWG))

### MARCH

Emergency Response Remote Exercise (REMS System)

### APRIL

Virtual Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks (HNPW)  
INSARAG Steering Group Meeting

### MAY

Remote International Earthquake Response Exercise (ERE) in all three global regions  
Launch of the EU MODEX/IER Handbook

### JUNE

Earthquake Response Exercise (ERSIMEX) Peru in the Americas Region  
Asia-Pacific Webinar on INSARAG Guidelines  
INSARAG USAR Coordination (UC) Course for the Asia-Pacific Region

### JULY

ERSIMEX Asia-Pacific Region

### AUGUST

Response to forest fires and floods in Europe  
Response to earthquake in Haiti

### SEPTEMBER

Three Regional Meetings  
INSARAG USAR Coordination Cell course in Asia-Pacific Region  
IEC FER SAR EMERCOM of RUSSIA

### OCTOBER

Third INSARAG Global Meeting and endorsement of the Warsaw Declaration

### NOVEMBER

Three IECs - Swiss Rescue, @Fire Germany, PUI France 01  
First Light team IEC - @FIRE Germany  
ERE Asia-Pacific

### DECEMBER

Preparations for the New Year Teleconference 2022

SIMEC China 2021  
Asia-Pacific Virtual ERE, 2021



## UPCOMING IN 2022

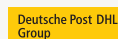
- Team Leaders and Working Groups Meeting (9 – 11 March)
- Hybrid Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships (Weeks 2 - 20 May)
- INSARAG Steering Group Meeting (10 May)
- ERE in all three regions
- Three Regional Meetings
- IEC/Rs:
  - Six IER (US Agency for International Development-Fairfax County US-01, New Zealand USAR, Czech USAR, Armenian USAR, Estonian USAR, Japan Disaster Relief)
  - Four IEC (Tunisian Special Unit, UK SARAID, International SAR Team of Azerbaijan, Cyprus Civil Defence)
- Singapore first INSARAG Recognised National Accreditation Process (IRNAP) Exercise October



“Looking ahead, INSARAG needs to continue to strengthen its existing capacities and enhance localization. So that hopefully one day in the future, we might not need to go to the field, as local responders will have the capacity at regional and sub-regional level to meet needs as they arise.”

MR. SEBASTIAN RHODES STAMPA, CHIEF OF THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE SECTION AND INSARAG SECRETARY.

## EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENTS



The INSARAG Secretariat greatly appreciates the strong commitment and generous support from member states, donors and host organisations.