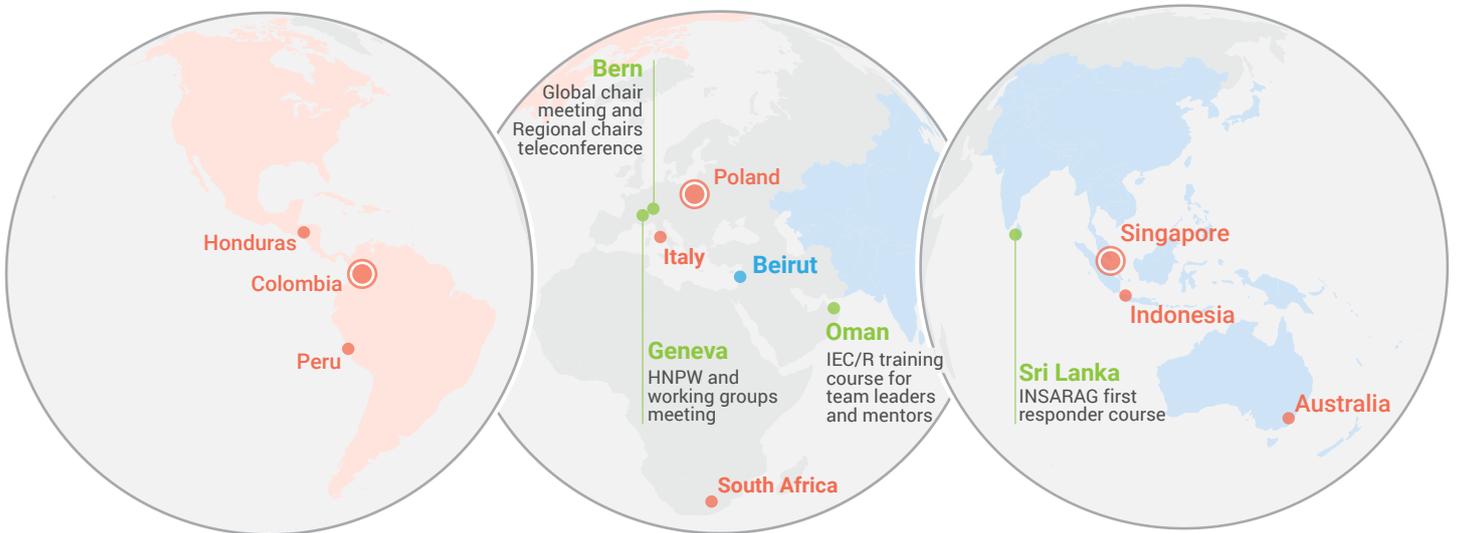




In 2020, the **International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG)** network faced perhaps the greatest challenge of its 30-year history: the COVID-19 pandemic. While operating in a virtual environment, the network remained fit for purpose by continuing to serve people in need despite the challenges

INSARAG BY LOCATION



- INSARAG regional chair
- INSARAG regional co-chair
- INSARAG response
- INSARAG training/event

DEVELOPMENTS AND FLEXIBLE RESPONSE IN A PANDEMIC

At the Policy level, Global and Regional Chairs decided on a series of measures to ensure that the network remains **flexible** and able to **adapt** to the constantly changing environment:

- 1 Two-year extension of INSARAG team's classification validity
- 2 Consultations at the regional level on "flexible response" to disasters beyond earthquakes and collapsed structures
- 3 Virtual meetings, events and training sessions
- 4 12 INSARAG External Re/Classifications postponed; 1 cancelled
- 5 Series of virtual conferences on the non-clinical aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic response
- 6 Strengthen localization and support disaster response remotely



BEIRUT PORT EXPLOSIONS

The response to the Beirut port explosion has shown the strong solidarity that binds member states together and how the presence of professional, well-trained and dedicated INSARAG USAR teams in the field, can add value to the ongoing national responders in such a large-scale emergency.

Highlights:

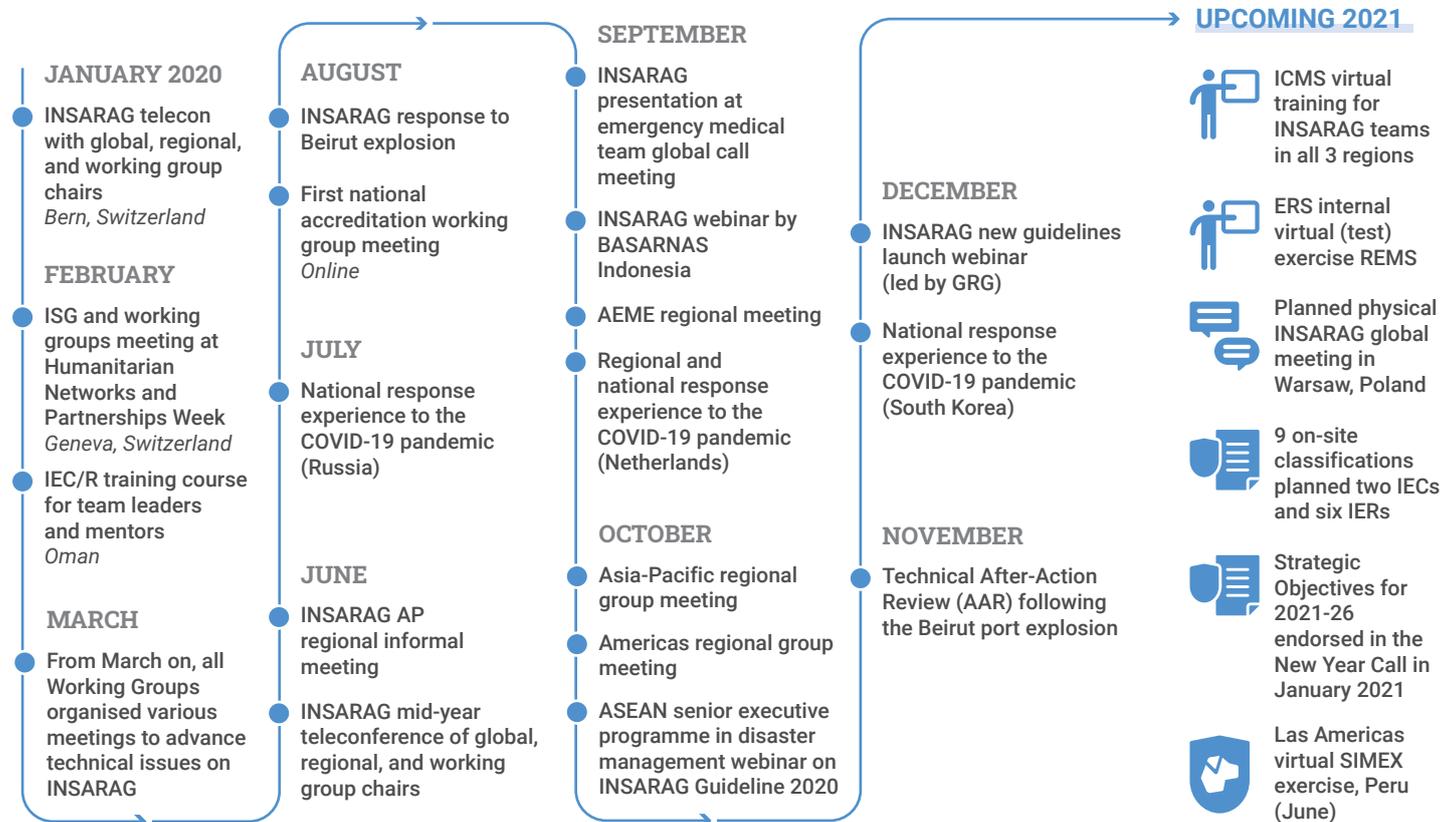
- 1 Key role of the UCC in facilitating access to information, resources and support to a government led response
- 2 Inclusion of a range of technical expertise within the team
- 3 Boosting Partnerships with UNDAC and EU Mechanisms
- 4 First INSARAG Coordination and Management System (ICMS) operationalized
- 5 Well-functioning Damage Assessment Coordination Centre (DACC) established in support of local authorities



“It was impressive to see the encouraging response from the INSARAG network. (...) It was a clear demonstration of commitment, but also of humanitarian values and readiness to support.”

— Ambassador Manuel Bessler, Global Chair of INSARAG

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2020



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

30 years commemoration: unocha.exposure.co/insarag

Strategic Objectives 2021-2026: insarag.org

INSARAG 2020 - The Year in Review: youtube.com/watch?v=Q1Mz5D0uezs

Guidance on USAR Operations in the Covid-19 Environment: bit.ly/3cmwXDN



The INSARAG network highly appreciates the generous support from all member states, donors, host organisations, regional groups and working group members. The INSARAG Secretariat looks forward to working with you to keep advancing our vital mission of strengthening preparedness for effective response and saving lives.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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Feedback: insarag@un.org

More information:
www.unocha.org
www.reliefweb.int
www.insarag.org

