



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

After a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2022 marked a year of continued growth and strong momentum for the activities of the INSARAG (International Search and Rescue Advisory Group) community with a total of 29 in person activities since April 2022. The network continued to serve our objectives and approaches in line with the INSARAG Strategic Plan, 2021-2026.

To ensure INSARAG endeavors are fit for its purpose post pandemic, this year, the annual 2022 INSARAG Steering Group Meeting was held on 10 May 2022, where the key points steering INSARAG forward are: Quality Standards; Localization, Flexible Response and Bolstering Partnerships, were presented for consultation.

This year we recognized the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the INSARAG General Assembly Resolution 57/150, which gave the network the opportunity to reflect during regional meetings on the effectiveness of the work produced, as well as the collaboration on all aspects of preparedness and response. We find ourselves in a strong position with currently over 90 member countries engaged in the Network and 57 INSARAG Classified Teams from 48 Countries which includes 6 INSARAG Classified NGO teams.

With the continued challenges of regional development and the ongoing disasters attributed to the climate crisis, the importance of localization and flexible response firmly stands and continues to drive INSARAG efforts. Enhancing the effectiveness of frontline response coordination involves strengthening the INSARAG at the community level and as regional teams continue to engage with strong ownership.

Sincerely,

- AMBASSADOR MANUEL BESSLER, INSARAG GLOBAL CHAIR



Ambassador Manuel Bessler, INSARAG Global Chairman in the field during the Armenian INSARAG External Reclassification Exercise (IER).

## GLOBAL REPORTING

1. The first in-person Global INSARAG Working Groups (WGs) and Team Leaders (TLs) Meeting was held in March in Doha after 13 months of virtual meetings.
2. The INSARAG Steering Group (ISG) Meeting was held on 10 May during the annual Humanitarian Networks and

Partnerships Week (HNPW) where the endorsement of the IRNAP Guidance Note and Checklist documents took place.

3. INSARAG commemorated the 20-year anniversary of General Assembly Resolution 57/150; a landmark resolution which strengthened the effectiveness and

coordination of international urban search and rescue assistance.

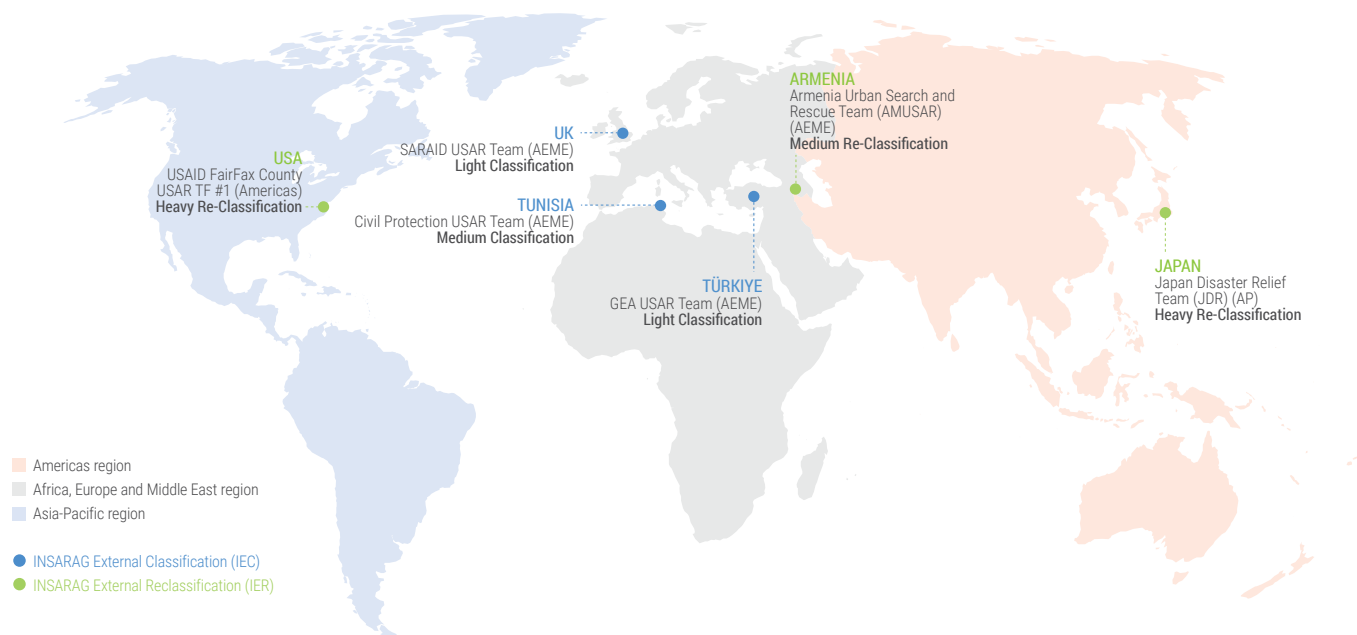
4. Meeting with DP-DHL.
5. Meeting with IEC/R TWG Chairs on moving forward the IEC/R system.



Singapore Civil Defense Force's (SCDF) the 6<sup>th</sup> country awarded the IRNAP accreditation, 16 October 2022.



# INSARAG EXTERNAL CLASSIFICATION/RECLASSIFICATION IN 2022



## KEY REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

### ACTIVITIES IN 2022

- JANUARY**  
INSARAG new year teleconference.  
AP regional troika new year call.  
Awareness and scoping mission for ROWCA and ECOWAS.  
INSARAG NAP Workshop.  
AP Regional TSG/TRG Workshop.  
II regional simulation exercise: CEPREDENAC (Guatemala).
- FEBRUARY**  
First responders training for Somalia.  
USAR coordination course (ISAR Germany).
- MARCH**  
Technical Working Groups (WG) and Team Leaders (TL) meeting.  
South Africa SADC USAR support preparation and flexible response partnership support.
- APRIL**  
IEC/R WG Co-Chairs Meeting with the Secretariat.  
IER (USA 1 Fairfax).
- MAY**  
HNPW - INSARAG Sessions.  
HNPW - ISG Hybrid Meeting.  
National USAR Coordination Course.
- JUNE**  
Chile IRNAP recognition process.  
Australian national UCC course.  
IRNAP Cyprus.  
Swiss Simex.  
IEC Tunisia.  
National USAR coordination course.
- JUNE**  
Chile IRNAP recognition process.  
Australian national UCC course.  
IRNAP Cyprus.  
Swiss Simex.  
IEC Tunisia.  
National USAR coordination course.
- JUNE**  
Chile IRNAP recognition process.  
Australian national UCC course.  
IRNAP Cyprus.  
Swiss Simex.  
IEC Tunisia.  
National USAR coordination course.
- AUGUST**  
IEC Turkey (GEA).
- SEPTEMBER**  
IER Armenia.  
AP ERE.  
IEC UK (SARAID).  
UC Training of Trainers (ToT).
- OCTOBER**  
AEME ERE.  
Regional meeting AEME.  
Singapore first IRNAP exercise.  
EU-UCC course 2022.  
AP regional meeting.  
UCC course.
- NOVEMBER**  
Regional meeting Americas.  
IER Japan (JPN-01).  
IER Saudi Arabia.  
IER Estonia-EU MODEX.
- DECEMBER**  
Americas NAP workshop.  
IEC Cyprus.  
Americas NAP workshop.

### ACTIVITIES IN 2023

- JANUARY**  
INSARAG new year teleconference.
- FEBRUARY**  
UC Course- France FRA2-international participation.  
Working groups meeting (back to back with TL Meeting).  
IEC classifiers workshop.
- MARCH**  
Team leaders meeting.  
UC Course FRA12-international participation.
- APRIL**  
HNPW 2023.  
ISG Meeting.
- MAY**  
USA 2 Los Angeles - Heavy IER 1 of 10.
- JUNE**  
IER Morocco 2 of 10.  
Czechia Heavy IER 3 of 10.
- SEPTEMBER**  
Russian 2 SIBERIA RUS-02 Heavy IER 6 of 13  
IER EMERCOM Siberia.
- OCTOBER**  
HUSZAR Hungary Medium IER 4 of 10.  
Korea Heavy IER 5 of 10.  
Indonesia Heavy IER 6 of 10.
- NOVEMBER**  
Regional meeting Americas.  
IER Japan (JPN-01).  
IER Saudi Arabia.  
IER Estonia-EU MODEX.
- DECEMBER**  
Americas NAP workshop.  
IEC Cyprus.  
Americas NAP workshop.

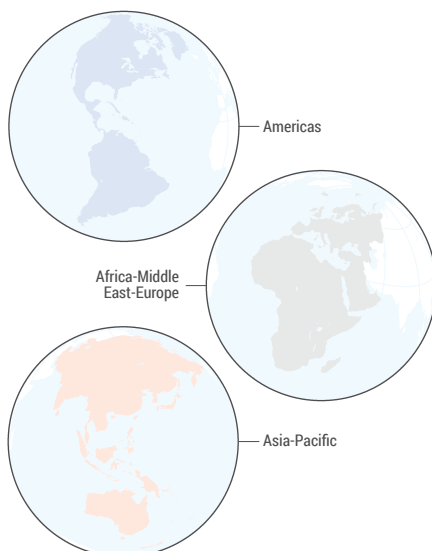
## TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS

### Americas

**IRNAP Chile:** in June 2022, Chile becomes one of three regional member states to receive an IRNAP certification after successfully completing their due process and are awarded their certificate of endorsement during the XXI INSARAG Regional meeting and IX UNDAC Regional Consultative Meeting.

**IRNAP course for TSG/TRGs designed and ready for implementation in the Americas in 2023:** This IRNAP course specifically aims to establish or expand the Technical Support Groups and Technical Recognition Groups rosters and train them in methodology and procedural INSARAG recognition of national accreditation processes. In this way, this course intends to improve the coherence of the work provided by the TSG/TRG roster and improve IRNAP quality, uniformity and procedural standards.

**Regional Flexible Response Group supporting the regions participation in the Flexible Response Working Group:** Amid increased flood frequency within the region due to climate change, and which at times exceeds local response capacities, a consensus from member states within the region have consistently expressed concerns and a sense of necessity for the development of quality standards, guidelines, frameworks of coordination for USAR response or specialized teams' response to flood rescue scenarios. This year, the sub-working group of the Americas presented their technical proposal to the Flexible Response Working group (FRWG) as had been previously discussed during the HPNW.



### Africa, Europe and Middle East

**South Africa and SADC USAR initial collaboration towards Flexible Response Partnerships Support:** In March 2022, a mission was undertaken to South Africa by the RFP which involved meeting Rescue SA and their partners University of Nelson Mandela and University of Johannesburg and the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) which is the INSARAG Focal Point. Key lessons relate to the fact that national stakeholders expect the USAR SA team to do more on flexible response given the national disaster context is predominantly hydrometeorological.

**USAR SA team deployed to KwaZulu-Natal Floods:** In April 2022, USAR Team SA deployed to KwaZulu-Natal for flood response. Unfortunately, they arrived on day 9 after the rescue phase was over. There are key lessons related to how procedures for deployment can be streamlined to ensure the team can deploy quickly.

**First Responders Capacity Building:** Initial training discussions were held with Somalia and Zimbabwe. Country teams mobilising resources for training which will feed in USAR capacity assessment and potential capacity building. Beyond in-country funding Somalia readiness for the training affected due to drought and escalating conflict and Zimbabwe have elections next year.

**National Search and Rescue Regulatory framework in South Africa:** Africa RFP is supporting South Africa's development of the National Search and Rescue Regulatory framework which is providing for the incorporation of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly Resolution 57/150 (16 December 2002) into a National Search, Rescue and Medical response capacity under the umbrella of the National Disaster Management Center, in accordance with the INSARAG and WHO guidelines as envisioned in the Urban Search and Rescue Framework (Notice 120 of 2014). It focusses on the establishment of a single governmental multi-agency organization, that responds to disasters, complex rescue, and Emergency medical incidents Provincially, Nationally, and Internationally.

**GEA and Rescue SA Partnership:** GEA is an NGO INSARAG Light Team in Turkey

that deploys nationally and internationally. Rescue SA is also an NGO team based in South Africa which is very active with flexible response related response in Southern Africa. The two teams have had joint virtual meetings towards establishing a partnership for Search and Rescue deployments in Southern Africa and capacity building.

### Asia-Pacific

**IRNAP TSG/TRG Workshop (online)** took place in January co-organized by NAWG and Asia-Pacific regional NAP WG. 30 USAR experts from 14 countries joined the workshop to become the roster members of AP regional TSG/TRG.

**Australia National UCC course** took place in June to strengthen USAR coordination capacity at national level. Australian INSARAG Working Group members and Operational Focal Points led the organization of the course.

**AP Earthquake Response Exercise (ERE)** in Bali on 5-9 September 2022 with over 300 national and international participants from 21 countries and 13 international teams and technical partners participating and hosted by BASARNAS was a resounding success and a first following the easing of the pandemic emergency with the network coming together. This exercise used the command post-exercise method that involves 5 USAR elements from the national and international levels in reference to INSARAG Guideline. It was a good opportunity to be able to identify each team's capacities and capabilities as well as review national and international coordination mechanisms.

**IRNAP Singapore conducted INSARAG Recognized National Accreditation Process exercise** from 14-16 October and became the first country in Asia-Pacific to be certified as per this methodology.

**Asia-Pacific UCC Course:** A USAR Coordination Cell (UCC) Course was held from 31 October – 4 November at the National Fire Service Academy (NFSA) in Gongju city, Republic of Korea. This course was designed to train selected staff from IEC Classified USAR teams in coordination methodologies. There were four instructors present from Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Republic of Korea, as well as five international participants from Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, and nine local participants from Republic of Korea.



## PEEK INTO 2023



**47**  
EVENTS PLANNED



**25**  
COUNTRIES



**19**  
TRAININGS



**7**  
EXERCISES



**10**  
IEC/IER



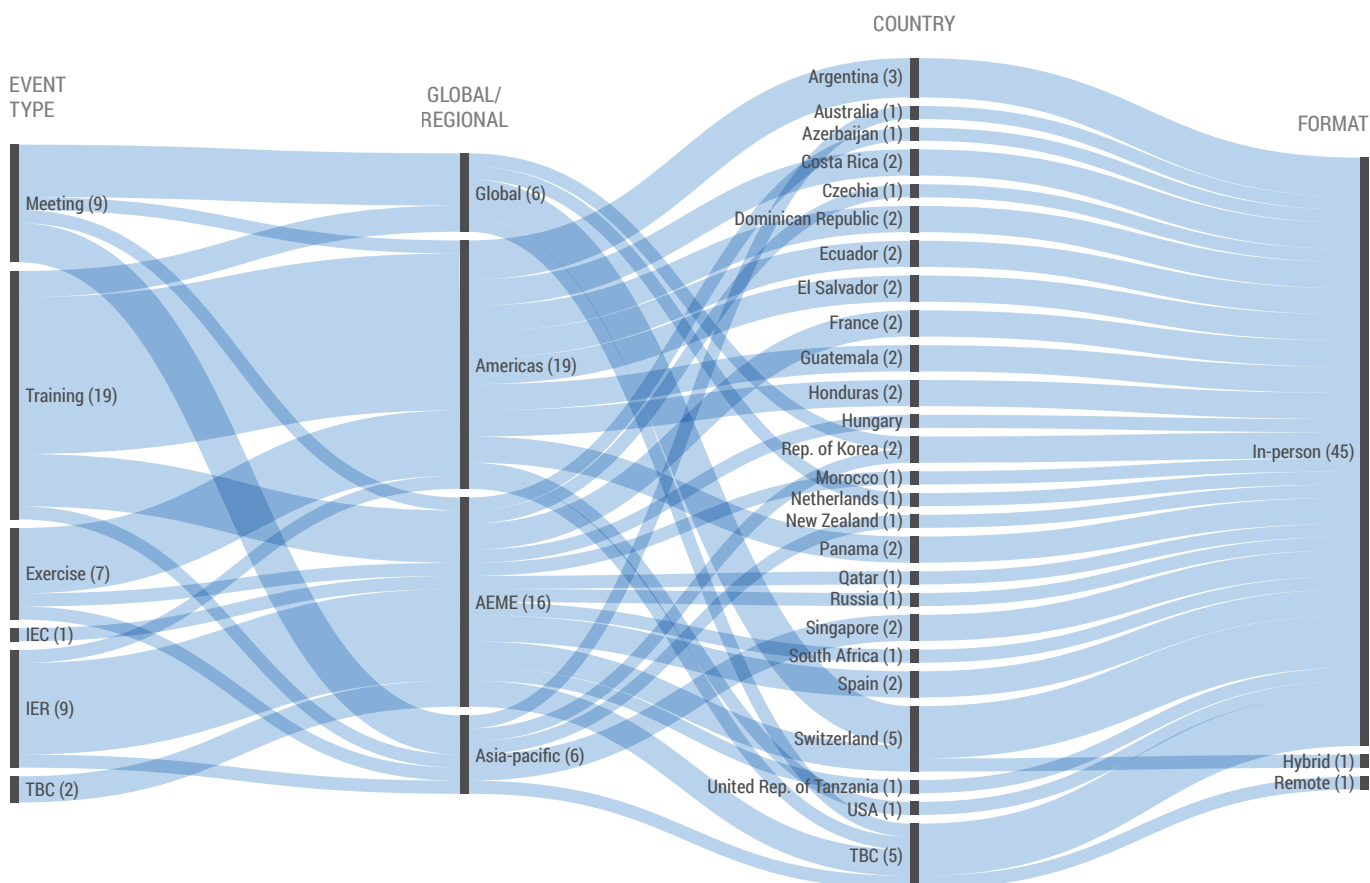
**45**  
IN PERSON



**1**  
HYBRID



**1**  
REMOTE



Sebastian Rhodes Stampa, INSARAG Secretary, Chief of the Emergency Response Section for UN OCHA.

On behalf the INSARAG global network we would like to extend a sincere thanks to our donors and supporters who make our work possible.

Your contributions are vital to continue our important work of rendering emergency preparedness and response activities more effective and thereby save more lives, reduce suffering and minimize adverse consequences.

We have an exciting year ahead filled with many activities, trainings and excersises to continue to strengthen our network to ensure "the Effectiveness and Coordination of International Urban Search and Rescue Assistance."

- Drafted by the INSARAG Secretariat, OCHA Geneva, with the guidance from Global and Regional Chairs

## EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENTS



Deutsche Post DHL Group



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