DISASTER RESPONSE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

A Guide to International Tools and Services

DISASTER RESPONSE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

A Guide to International Tools and Services

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FIGURES

CASE STUDIES

ACRONYMS

AADMER	ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response
ACAPS	Assessment Capacities Project
ACDM	ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADInet	ASEAN Disaster Information Network
ADMER Fund	ASEAN Disaster Management and Emergency Relief Fund
ADRC	Asian Disaster Reduction Center
ADRRN	Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network
AHA Centre	ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management
APC-MADRO	Asia-Pacific Conferences on Military Assistance to Disaster Relief Operations
APDRF	Asia-Pacific Disaster Response Fund (ADB)
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
APG	AADMER Partnership Group (ASEAN)
APP	Asia Preparedness Partnership
APRSAF	Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum
ARF	ASEAN Regional Forum
ARF DiREx	ASEAN Regional Forum Disaster Relief Exercise
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASEC	ASEAN Secretariat
CADRI	Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative
CBPF	Country-based Pooled Funds
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CHASE	Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department (DFID)
CHS	Core Humanitarian Standard
DART	Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID)
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)
DMHA	Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Division (ASEAN)
DMRS	Disaster Monitoring and Response System (ASEAN)
DREF	Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (IFRC)
DRF	Disaster Recovery Framework
DRR	Disaster risk reduction
EAS	East Asia Summit
ECHO	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
ECOSOC	UN Economic and Social Council
EEC	Environmental Emergencies Centre (OCHA/UNEP)
EMT	Emergency Medical Team
EMTCC	Emergency Medical Team Coordination Cell
ERAT	Emergency Rapid Assessment Team (ASEAN)
ERC	Emergency Relief Coordinator
ERP	Emergency Response Preparedness
ERU	Emergency Response Unit (IFRC)
EU	European Union
FACT	Field Assessment Coordination Team (IFRC)

FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FEAT	Flash Environmental Assessment Tool
FTS	Financial Tracking Service
GDACS	Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System
GenCap	Gender Standby Capacity Roster
GFDRR	Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (World Bank)
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GNDR	Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction
GPP	Global Preparedness Partnership
HAT (OCHA)	Humanitarian Advisory Team
HC	Humanitarian Coordinator
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
HDX	Humanitarian Data Exchange
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
HPC	Humanitarian Programme Cycle
IARRM	Inter-Agency Rapid Response Mechanism
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICVA	International Council of Voluntary Agencies
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IEC	INSARAG External Classification
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IHL	International humanitarian law
IHP	International Humanitarian Partnership
IM	Information management
IMU (OCHA)	Information Management Unit
INEE	Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies
INGO	International non-governmental organization
INSARAG	International Search and Rescue Advisory Group
IOM	International Organization for Migration
JDR	Japan Disaster Relief Teams (JICA)
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JSPADM	Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management
LEGS	Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards
MCDA	Military and Civil Defence Assets
MIRA	Multi-Cluster Initial Rapid Assessment
MISP	Minimum Initial Service Package
MOU	Memorandum of understanding
MPTF	Multi-Partner Trust Fund
NDMA	National disaster management agency
NDMO	National disaster management organization
NDRRM	Natural Disaster Rapid Response Mechanism
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (USA)
NORCAP	Norwegian Refugee Council's Expert Deployment Capacity
OCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OHCHR	UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OP (OCHA)	OCHA Office for the Pacific Islands

OSOCC	On-Site Operations Coordination Centre
PAHO	Pan-American Health Organization
PDC	Pacific Disaster Center
PDN	Pacific Disaster Net
PEF	Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility
PHT	Pacific Humanitarian Team
PIF	Pacific Islands Forum
ProCap	Protection Standby Capacity Roster
PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
PTWS	Pacific Tsunami Warning System
RCRC	International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
RDC	Reception and Departure Centre
RDRT	Regional Disaster Response Team (IFRC)
RHPF	Regional Humanitarian Partnership Forum
RIMES	Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System
ROAP (OCHA)	OCHA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SADKN	South Asian Disaster Knowledge Network (SAARC)
SASOP	Standard operating procedure for regional standby arrangements
SATHI	South Asia Together for Humanitarian Imperative
SCHR	Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response
SDMC	SAARC Disaster Management Centre
SEARHEF	South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund
SPC	Pacific Community
UCC	USAR Coordination Cell
UN	United Nations
UN-CMCoord	United Nations Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDAC	United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNHRD	United Nations Humanitarian Response Depots
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNOSAT	UNITAR's Operational Satellite Applications Programme
UN RC	United Nations Resident Coordinator
UN-SPIDER	UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Mgmt. and Emergency Response
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USAR	Urban search and rescue
US$	US dollars
USGS	United States Geological Survey
VOSOCC	Virtual On-Site Operations Coordination Centre
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WHS	World Humanitarian Summit

I.

INTRODUCTION
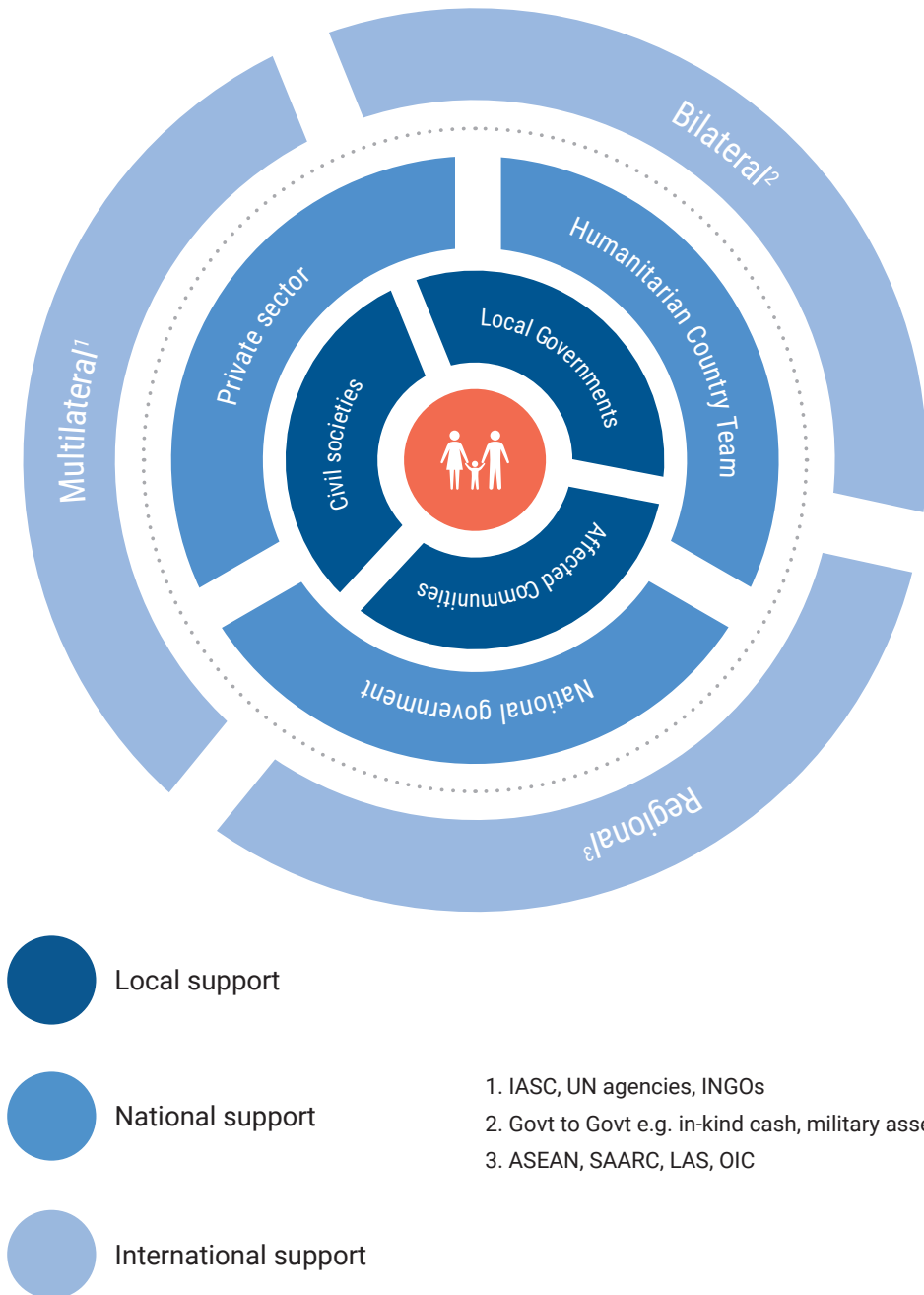
I. INTRODUCTION

How do international and regional tools and services support disaster response in Asia-Pacific?

Asia-Pacific is the world's most disaster-prone region, so disaster management is a regional priority. Over the past decade, most countries in the region have established national disaster management authorities and systems that are increasingly capable of managing an effective disaster response. In addition, the growing prominence of bilateral response arrangements, grounded in South-South Cooperation, and the increased capacity of regional organizations are contributing to a more diverse response system. As a result, disaster management and response in the region is based on strong national leadership, particularly in the context of natural disasters, with regional and international actors complementing Government efforts when required.

Nationally-led disaster management includes not only the Government, but also the 'whole of society', including the military, the private sector, civil society, and most crucially, the affected communities themselves. In Asia-Pacific, local communities are always the first and last responders, so disaster management is strengthened when communities are actively engaged, particularly through community-based approaches to disaster risk reduction that build on local capacities. If humanitarian actions are to be genuinely relevant, timely, effective and efficient, disaster-affected communities must be placed at the centre of all humanitarian action, and they must be actively involved and engaged before, during and after a disaster.

Recent experience in the Asia-Pacific shows that international assistance is most critical during the first weeks following a major natural disaster, and that effectively scaling up response in rapidly-escalating complex emergencies requires robust and sustained advocacy and coordination. The response should focus on the immediate needs of crisis-affected people, work through and in complement to national systems, and draw primarily on resources available in the affected country and region. When necessary, international resources and expertise should be mobilized to fill identified gaps (Figure 1).

Figure 1. How International and Regional Tools Support Disaster Response in Asia-Pacific

Legend:
- Local support
- National support
- International support

1. IASC, UN agencies, INGOs
2. Govt to Govt e.g. in-kind cash, military assets
3. ASEAN, SAARC, LAS, OIC

Why has the Guide been produced?

Disaster Response in Asia and the Pacific: A Guide to International Tools and Services (hereafter referred to as "the Guide") was updated in 2017. The original 2013 edition was produced following the 2011 Regional Humanitarian Partnership Forum (RHPF) for the Asia-Pacific Region held in Shanghai, China. At the workshop, United Nations (UN) Member States and other humanitarian stakeholders requested a handbook to guide disaster managers in understanding the interaction between national, regional and international humanitarian response mechanisms. The original Guide was developed in consultation with Government officials across Asia and the Pacific and representatives of intergovernmental organizations, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (RCRC Movement), national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs/INGOs), donors and other key agencies worldwide. These partners were also consulted for the revised Guide.

What is the purpose of this Guide?

The Guide helps disaster managers in national Governments gain basic knowledge of how to mobilize and use international and regional tools and services for disaster response and preparedness efforts. However, the Guide is not prescriptive. Rather, it supports both disaster response and disaster response preparedness capabilities at the national level in Asia and the Pacific. It is a reference on the available tools and services that can facilitate the rapid mobilization of humanitarian assistance and response in emergencies.

Who is the Guide for?

The Guide is primarily intended for national disaster management organizations (NDMOs) and line ministries involved in disaster response and disaster response preparedness. It is also a reference document for representatives of intergovernmental organizations, civil society actors and disaster-affected people.

What is the scope of the Guide?

The Guide concentrates on key tools and services that can help disaster managers during the response and response preparedness phases of the disaster programme cycle. The Guide also includes some entries relevant to conflict situations. However, it does not include tools and services that support broader disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts, nor does it cover longer-term disaster recovery instruments or tools and services still in development (Figure 2).

How can the Guide be used?

- To create a common understanding of the tools and services available in the region

- To support emergency decision-making in small, medium and large-scale disasters

- To help identify the international technical expertise available prior to and at the onset of a disaster

- To facilitate partnerships between humanitarian actors

- To inform academic curricula at national and regional learning institutions

How is the Guide organized?

Following this introduction, the Guide has five substantive chapters: [II] Guidance Frameworks, [III] Humanitarian Actors, [IV] International Coordination Mechanisms, [V] Tools and Services, and [VI] Early Warning. The Guide explains how to access more information and provides contact information for requesting the deployment of the services and tool discussed.

Figure 2.   Scope of the Guide: Response and Emergency Response Preparedness

DISASTER MANAGEMENT CYCLE

RECOVERY

MITIGATION

RESPONSE

PREPARDENESS

DISASTER STRIKES

The Guide does not include tools and services that support broader Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PREPARDENESS
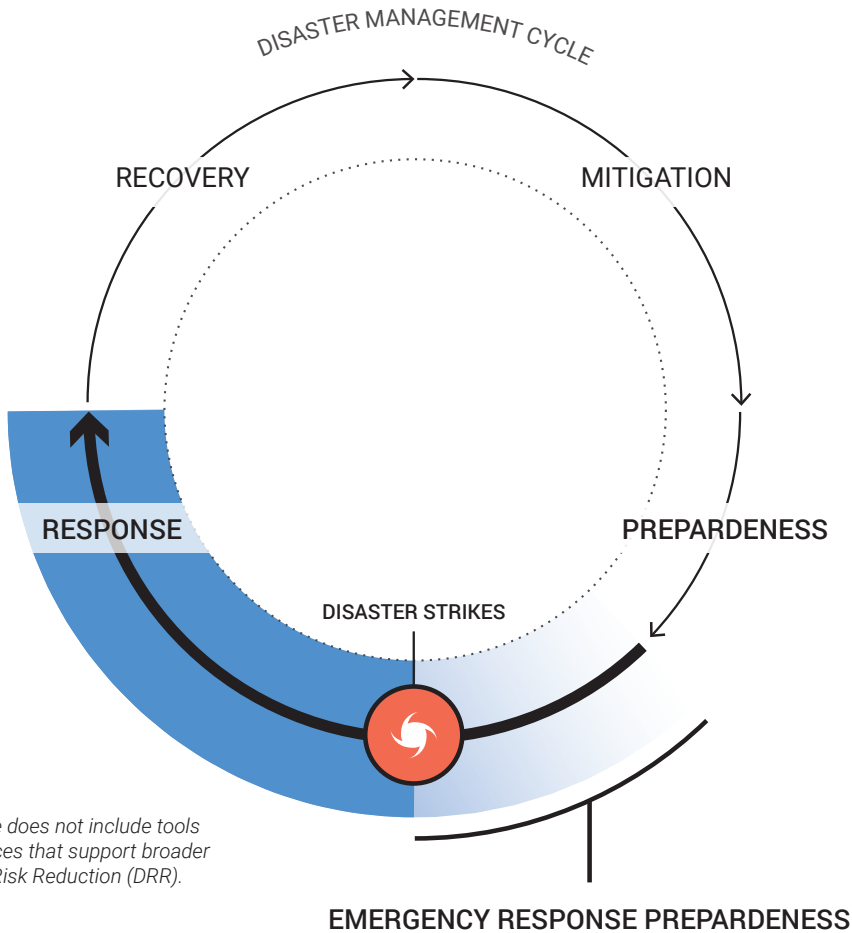
DISASTER RESPONSE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS

DISASTER RESPONSE: assistance and interventions provided during or immediately after a disaster to preserve life and meet the basic subsistence needs of those affected.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS: pre-disaster activities undertaken to minimize the loss of life, injury and property damage in a disaster, and to ensure that rescue, relief, rehabilitation and other services can be provided following a disaster. Preparedness for the first and immediate response is called "emergency preparedness".

II.

GUIDANCE FRAMEWORKS

II. GUIDANCE FRAMEWORKS

The first responders in any emergency are crisis-affected people, community-based and local organizations, and Government agencies. Central Governments may also request external support from regional partners and/or the international humanitarian system. While national legal systems are the main regulatory frameworks for protecting disaster-affected people, provision of international humanitarian assistance is guided by the UN General Assembly resolution 46/182 (1991) "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations". The resolution provides the framework for emergency relief and informs the work of the humanitarian system today. It lays out 12 guiding principles for humanitarian action and enshrines the core humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, and impartiality. Subsequent UN General Assembly resolutions on strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance have reinforced General Assembly resolution 46/182 and expanded the core humanitarian principles to also include operational independence (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Humanitarian Principles

HUMANITY

Human suffering must be addressed wherever it is found. The purpose of humanitarian action is to protect life and health and ensure respect for human beings.

NEUTRALITY

Humanitarian actors must not take sides in hostilities or engage in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

IMPARTIALITY

Humanitarian action must be carried out on the basis of need alone, making no distinctions on the basis of nationality, race, gender, religious belief, class or political opinions.

INDEPENDENCE

Humanitarian action must be autonomous from the political, economic, military or other objectives that any actor may hold in relation to areas where humanitarian action is being implemented.

Humanitarian action is also regulated by binding and non-binding international humanitarian and human rights law. The 1949 Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols adopted in 1977 and 2005 form the core of international humanitarian law, which regulates the conduct of armed conflict and seeks to limit its effects. The Geneva Conventions have been ratified by all States and are universally applicable.

THE PURPOSE OF HUMANITARIAN REGULATORY AGREEMENTS

The regulation of international humanitarian action serves three main functions:

- It safeguards the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- It guarantees fundamental rights and protection for disaster-affected communities.
- It rationalizes the roles and responsibilities between humanitarian actors.

Additional regulation of international humanitarian action in Asia and the Pacific can be understood according to three categories: (a) non-binding regulatory agreements between States; (b) binding regulatory agreements between States; and (c) voluntary guidelines governing humanitarian action by State and non-state actors. The Guide does not list all the regulatory documents that could be applicable in a disaster. Instead, it focuses on those most relevant to humanitarian action in the region.

A. NON-BINDING REGULATORY AGREEMENTS BETWEEN STATES

Non-binding agreements between States that also govern international humanitarian action for the purposes of effective disaster response include:

1. United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/182[1]
2. International Federation of the Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance
3. World Customs Organization Resolution on the Role of Customs in Natural Disaster Relief
4. FRANZ Agreement for the South Pacific region.

---

1 In addition to resolution 46/182, several UN General Assembly, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and Security Council resolutions also govern international humanitarian action. These resolutions can be accessed at www.un.org/documents/ga/res/46/a46r182.htm

United Nations General Assembly Resolution 46/182, referred to as GA 46/182, defines the role of the UN in coordinating international humanitarian assistance when a Government requests external support. The resolution establishes a number of UN mechanisms to strengthen the effectiveness of international humanitarian action; namely, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and coordinated appeals for international assistance. GA 46/182 was unanimously adopted by UN Member States in 1991.

GENRAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 46/182 ON SOVEREIGNTY

"Sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of States shall be fully respected in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. In this context, humanitarian assistance should be provided with the consent of the affected country and, in principle, on the basis of a request by the affected country."

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance (also known as the IDRL guidelines) are a set of recommendations for Governments on how to prepare national laws and plans so that they coordinate with and facilitate international disaster law. The IDRL Guidelines address issues including requesting and receiving international assistance; issuing visas and work permits to international humanitarian personnel; customs clearance of relief items; taxation; and obtaining domestic legal personality or legal status. The IDRL guidelines were unanimously adopted by all States party to the Geneva Conventions and the RCRC Movement at the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2007, and they have subsequently been recognized in consecutive UN General Assembly resolutions.

World Customs Organization (WCO) Resolution on the Role of Customs in Natural Disaster Relief highlights the need for disaster preparedness in customs administrations. It encourages States to implement measures expediting and facilitating the customs clearance of relief consignments.[2] The Resolution was unanimously adopted by WCO Members in 2011.

FRANZ Partnership (FRANZ) is an agreement between France, Australia and New Zealand to coordinate disaster reconnaissance and relief assistance in the Pacific at the request of affected countries. FRANZ is a civilian-led arrangement that is supported by defence forces. In this arrangement, the FRANZ Partners commit to good humanitarian donorship principles

---

2   As contained in Chapter 5 of Specific Annex J to the Revised Kyoto Convention

and recognize and respect the sovereignty and leading role of affected countries in responding to disasters. Leadership for the FRANZ partnership is through the respective Foreign Affairs Ministries,[3] and the point of contact is the respective High Commission or Embassy in the affected countries. The partnership was established in 22 December 1992.

B. BINDING REGULATORY AGREEMENTS BETWEEN STATES

The binding agreements between States in Asia and the Pacific that regulate disaster preparedness and response action include:

1. ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER)
2. SAARC Natural Disaster Rapid Response Mechanism (NDRRM)

ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) is a legally-binding regional multi-hazard and policy framework for cooperation, coordination, technical assistance and resource mobilization in all aspects of disaster management in the 10 ASEAN Member States.[4] AADMER provides a mechanism for reducing the loss of life and social, economic and environmental assets, and for responding to emergencies through concerted national efforts and intensified regional and international co-operation. The AADMER was signed by ASEAN Member States in 2005 and entered into force in December 2009.

The **AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020** is a holistic action plan for building a resilient ASEAN Community by reducing disaster losses and collectively responding to disasters by implementing eight Priority Programmes that cover the disaster management spectrum.[5] The Work Programme is a collaborative platform that strengthens regional integration and promotes a people-oriented and people-centred ASEAN Community.

Through its **Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations (SASOP),** the AADMER enables ASEAN Member States to mobilize and deploy resources for emergency response. The SASOP guides the actions of the ASEAN Member States and the operational

---

3 FRANZ Ministries include French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

4 The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Member States are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

5 ASEAN's definition of Disaster Management coincides with the definition of Disaster Risk Reduction used by the international community.

engine of the AADMER, the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), in: (1) the regional standby arrangements for disaster relief and emergency response; (2) the utilization of military and civilian personnel, transportation and communication equipment, facilities, good and services, and the facilitation of their trans-boundary movement; and (3) the co-ordination of joint disaster relief and emergency response operations.

Inspired by ASEAN's 2013 response to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, the **ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region** increases the speed, scale and solidarity of ASEAN's response. The Declaration affirms the AHA Centre as the primary regional coordinating agency on disaster management and emergency response. The AHA Centre is tasked with developing the necessary protocols, procedures and standards to operationalize the Declaration, including through engagement with other relevant sectors and stakeholders in ASEAN. It was signed by ASEAN leaders on 6 September 2016.

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Agreement on Rapid Response to Natural Disasters is a regional disaster management agreement that reinforces existing mechanisms for rapid response to disasters. The Natural Disaster Rapid Response Mechanism (NDRRM) obliges SAARC Member States[6] to take legislative and administrative measures to implement agreement provisions. These include measures for requesting and receiving assistance; conducting needs assessments; mobilizing equipment, personnel, materials and other facilities; making regional standby arrangements, including emergency stockpiles; and ensuring quality control of relief items. The SAARC Agreement on Rapid Response to Natural Disasters was signed by SAARC Member States in 2011. It was ratified by all Member States and entered into force on 9 September 2016.

C. VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES GOVERNING HUMANITARIAN ACTION

In addition to binding and non-binding agreements, a secondary body of voluntary guidelines governs relations among humanitarian actors and between humanitarian actors and disaster-affected people. These guidelines apply to a variety of audiences within the international humanitarian community. The below list focuses on some of the most important humanitarian guidelines.

---

6   The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Member States are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

1. IASC Transformative Agenda Protocols
2. World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) Agenda for Humanity
3. Code of Conduct for the RCRC Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief
4. Sphere Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere Handbook)
5. Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS)
6. Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) on Reproductive Health in Crises
7. IASC Operational Guidelines on the Protection of Persons in Situations of Natural Disasters
8. Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement
9. Oslo Guidelines on the Use of Foreign Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief
10. Asia-Pacific Regional Guidelines for the Use of Foreign Military Assets in Natural Disaster Response Operations
11. Management of Dead Bodies after Disasters: Field Manual
12. Environmental Emergencies Guidelines
13. Disaster Waste Management Guidelines
14. IASC Commitments on Accountability to Affected Populations (CAAP)
15. IASC Gender Handbook in Humanitarian Action
16. IASC Guidelines for Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings
17. IASC Principles on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by UN and non-UN Entities
18. Community-based Complaint Mechanism Best Practice Guide

IASC Transformative Agenda Protocols are the product of efforts to strengthen humanitarian action through successive reform processes. In 2005-6, the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) initiated a humanitarian reform process to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian response through greater predictability, accountability, responsibility and partnership.

One of the major adaptations of the Humanitarian Reform process was the adoption of the Cluster Approach to humanitarian coordination.[7] The IASC Guidance Note on "Using the Cluster Approach to strengthen humanitarian response" (2006) spells out the responsibilities of global and country-level sector/cluster leads, provides guidance on application of the Cluster Approach in new emergencies, and reinforces partnerships and complementarity. Additional responsibilities for cluster leads are addressed in the "Operational Guidance on Responsibilities of Cluster/Sector Leads and UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Information Management" (2008). The guidance clarifies information management roles in a humanitarian emergency, and promotes effective information

---

7 The Cluster Approach is covered in more detail in Chapter IV "International Coordination Mechanisms" on page 51.

management, facilitates situational understanding and decision-making, and ensures that information management activities support existing national information systems, standards, and local capacities.

In 2011, the IASC Principals conducted a further review of humanitarian action and in December 2011, adopted a 'Transformative Agenda', a set of actions to improve the humanitarian response model. Following the agreement, the Transformative Agenda Protocols were endorsed. These established the parameters for improved collective action in humanitarian emergencies. The Protocols are:

a. **Concept Paper on 'Empowered Leadership'** (revised March 2014) clarifies what is meant by the concept of 'empowered leadership' during the initial three-month period following the declaration of a Level 3 (L3) emergency. It details the responsibilities of the humanitarian coordinator (HC) in setting priorities and planning; leading overall cluster coordination; leading engagement and advocacy with national authorities and donors; ensuring information and monitoring of the response; leading humanitarian funding strategies; and strengthening accountability.

b. **Humanitarian System-Wide Emergency Activation: definition and procedures** (April 2012) details the exceptional measures that should be applied for when an L3 emergency is declared to ensure that there is adequate capacity and tools for enhanced leadership and coordination of the humanitarian system. It also engages IASC member organizations to ensure that they put in place the right systems and that they mobilize resources to contribute to the response.

c. **Responding to Level 3 Emergencies: What 'Empowered Leadership' looks like in practice** (November 2012) outlines the additional authority that an HC has in the initial phase of an L3 response to make timely decisions in the following key areas: setting overall priorities, allocating resources, monitoring performance and dealing with underperformance.

d. **Reference Module for Cluster Coordination at the Country-level** (revised in July 2015) outlines the basic elements of cluster coordination and serves as a reference guide for field practitioners to facilitate their work and improve humanitarian outcomes.

e. **Humanitarian Programme Cycle Reference Module Version 2.0** (July 2015) defines the roles and responsibilities of international humanitarian actors. It also outlines how they interact in different contexts with each other, with national and local authorities, with civil society and with those affected by crises. These contexts include preparing for emergencies, assessing needs, planning, implementing and monitoring response, mobilizing resources, and conducting peer assessments of response.

f. **Accountability to Affected Populations Operational Framework (March 2015)** summarizes the key concepts for making programming at the field level more accountable to affected populations. It also helps implementing agencies find practical entry points for improving accountability to affected populations.

g. **Inter-Agency Rapid Response Mechanism (IARRM) Concept Note** (December 2013) provides a summary of the purpose and scope of the IARRM, the required capacities and training of staff deployed through the IARRM, information on how the IARRM is activated, and funding for the mechanism.

h. **Common Framework for Preparedness** (October 2013) reviews the rationale for establishing the Common Framework, its Operating Principles, the actions taken as part of the Common Framework and its indicators of success.

i. **Emergency Response Preparedness Guidance** (draft for Field Testing issued in July 2015) assists Resident/Humanitarian Coordinators and Humanitarian Country Teams in preparing to respond to potential emergencies with appropriate humanitarian assistance and protection. It is a tool for developing a common understanding of risks, establishing a minimum level of multi-hazard preparedness and taking additional action, including the development of contingency plans.

j. **Multi-Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) Guidance** (revised in July 2015) explains the purpose of joint data collection and shared analytical processes and outlines the key steps required to undertake a joint needs assessment, as well as associated roles and responsibilities.

For more information: www.interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-transformative-agenda

World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) Agenda for Humanity identifies voluntary commitments for reducing suffering and delivering better assistance to people caught in humanitarian crises. The WHS took place in Istanbul, Turkey in May 2016 and brought together 9,000 participants, representing UN Member States, international and regional organizations, international, national and local civil society organizations, as well as the private sector and academia. In the two years leading up to the WHS, eight multi-stakeholder regional consultations, one global consultation, and numerous stakeholder- or industry-specific consultations were held, and the results contributed to shaping the WHS agenda. The Agenda for Humanity, developed by former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, was an outcome of the WHS. As a result of the WHS more than 3,500 commitments to action were generated. For more information: www.agendaforhumanity.org

One key outcome of the WHS was the **Grand Bargain on Efficiency.** It was first proposed by the former UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing as one of the solutions to address the humanitarian financing gap. The goal of the Grand Bargain is for both donors and agencies to make changes so that aid delivery is more efficient and human and financial resources are freed up for the direct benefit of affected populations.

The Grand Bargain consists of five strategic priorities, which largely relate to headquarter-level funding and administrative arrangements, as well as five operational priorities that reflect the way humanitarian agencies should be implementing their programs. These ten priorities include reducing donor earmarking and increasing multi-year and flexible funding, ensuring greater agency transparency, expanding cash programming, strengthening localization of responses, and cutting bureaucracy through harmonised reporting requirements.

A second key outcome of the WHS was the **New Way of Working**. It aims to improve collaboration between humanitarian and development actors, Governments, NGOs and private sector actors. According to the New Way of Working, having diverse actors working towards collective outcomes will more effectively reduce needs, risk and vulnerabilities. Wherever possible, these collaborative efforts will reinforce and strengthen previously existing capacities at the national and local levels.

Code of Conduct for the Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief is a voluntary code adhered to by the RCRC Movement and participating NGOs. It establishes 10 principles that signatory agencies commit to follow in their disaster response work and also describes the relationships that agencies should seek with affected communities, donor Governments, host Governments and the UN system. To date, 492 separate organizations have signed the Code of Conduct. For more information: www.ifrc.org

Sphere[8] Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere Handbook) is an internationally recognized set of common principles and universal minimum standards for the delivery of humanitarian assistance. It improves both the quality of assistance provided to people affected by disasters as well as the accountability of humanitarian actors to the affected people, donors and partners. Sphere standards guide humanitarian action across four primary areas: (1) water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion; (2) food security and nutrition; (3) shelter, settlement and non-food items; and (4) health action. There is also a series of Sphere companion standards, published as separate volumes, which are built

---

8   Sphere, a registered NGO based in Geneva, Switzerland, is the successor of the "Sphere Project".

on the same foundation, informed through the same process of consultation, and compiled with the same rigour as the Sphere Handbook (2011). These companion standards include:

- Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies, Chronic Crises and Early Reconstruction (MSEE). Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) [2010]

- Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (CPMS). Child Protection Alliance [2012]

- Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) [2014]

- Minimum Economic Recovery Standards (MERS) [2017]

- Minimum Standard for Market Analysis (MISMA). [2017]

- Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP) [2017]

The fourth edition of the Sphere Handbook will be released in 2018, following the most inclusive revision process in its history. For more information: www.sphereproject.org

Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS) is the result of a global consultation process, drawing together key elements of existing humanitarian standards and commitments. It sets out Nine Commitments that organizations and individuals involved in humanitarian response can use to improve the quality and effectiveness of the assistance they provide and to facilitate greater accountability to communities and people affected by crisis (Figure 4). The CHS describes the essential elements of principled, accountable and high-quality humanitarian action. Humanitarian organizations can align their own internal procedures with the CHS and also use it as a basis for verification of performance.

Together with Sphere and Groupe URD[9], CHS Alliance develops, promotes, and maintains the CHS and the CHS verification scheme. Specifically, the CHS Alliance develops tools and provides trainings that ensure the quality and accountability of the Standard. For more information: www.chsalliance.org/membership

---

9 Groupe URD is an independent institute which specializes in the analysis of practices and the development of policy for the humanitarian and post-crisis sectors.

Figure 4. Core Humanitarian Standard

Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) on Reproductive Health in Crises prescribes crucial actions for responding to reproductive health needs at the onset of every humanitarian crisis. The MISP ensures an organization is identified to coordinate the response for sexual and reproductive health; prevents and manages the consequences of sexual violence; reduces HIV transmission; prevents maternal and new-born death and illness; and promotes integration of comprehensive sex and reproductive health care with primary health care. These actions are the starting point for reproductive health coordination and programming, and they provide the foundation for additional services through the response and recovery period. They should be sustained and expanded with comprehensive reproductive health services throughout protracted crises and recovery. The MISP was developed in 2010 through the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) on Reproductive Health in Crises in collaboration with UNFPA and partners. The IAWG encourages humanitarian actors, policymakers and donors to become more aware and responsible for implementing this critical tool. The tool is currently under revision, but the objectives remain similar. It is expected to be launched mid-2018.

IASC Operational Guidelines on the Protection of Persons in Situations of Natural Disasters promote and facilitate a rights-based approach to disaster relief. In particular, they call on humanitarian actors to ensure that human rights principles are integrated into all disaster response and recovery efforts, and that affected people are fully consulted and can participate in all stages of disaster response. The Operational Guidelines, published in 2011, are based on existing human rights law and humanitarian accountability standards.

Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement identifies the rights and guarantees of the forcibly displaced, including their protection and assistance during displacement, as well as during return or resettlement and reintegration. They were established by the United Nations in 1998.

Oslo Guidelines on the Use of Foreign Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief (also known as "Oslo Guidelines") establish the basic framework for improving the effectiveness and efficiency in the use of foreign Military and Civil Defence Assets (MCDA) in international disaster relief operations. The Oslo Guidelines also address the use of MCDA following natural, technological and environmental emergencies in times of peace. MCDA should be requested only where there is no comparable civilian alternative and only when MCDA meets a critical humanitarian need. If MCDA are required, the Oslo Guidelines outline the procedures for requesting and coordinating MCDA. The Guidelines were released in 1994 and revised in 2007.

Asia-Pacific Regional Guidelines for the Use of Foreign Military Assets in Natural Disaster Response Operations reinforce the principles of the Oslo Guidelines and tailor them to the unique civil-military coordination context of Asia and the Pacific. They were established in 2011 and are the outcome of the Asia-Pacific Conferences on Military Assistance to Disaster Relief Operations (APC-MADRO). Sixteen countries from across the Asia-Pacific region participated in their drafting.

Management of Dead Bodies after Disasters: Field Manual is a technical guide that outlines the proper and dignified management of dead bodies after a disaster. It was produced jointly by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), IFRC, Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and WHO, and first published in 2006. It was revised in 2016. The revised manual covers a range of specific tasks, including infectious disease risk management, body recovery, storage, identification, and disposal of dead bodies. The Field Manual also includes a number of identification and inventory forms among other useful resources.

Environmental Emergencies Guidelines focus on the roles and responsibilities of regional and international institutions and frameworks when responding to the environmental impacts of large scale, sudden-onset disasters and complex emergencies, as well as industrial accidents. They were jointly developed by United Nations Environment and OCHA, and originally issued in 2009 and revised in 2017.

Disaster Waste Management Guidelines provide national authorities and international relief experts with sound and practical advice to help them manage disaster waste. Disaster waste is a well-recognized threat to health, safety and the environment, and it can also be a major impediment to post-disaster rescue operations. These guidelines focus on situations where the local and regional waste management systems are not able to cope with the quantities and composition of wastes generated by a disaster or conflict. The guidelines provide advice and tools to overcome these challenges and successfully manage disaster waste in emergency and early recovery phases. They were developed collaboratively by the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) and the UN Environment / OCHA Joint Unit (JEU) in 2011.

IASC Commitments on Accountability to Affected Populations (CAAP), adopted by the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Principals and revised in 2017, defines four commitments as critical aspects of a framework for engagement with communities. They are (1) Leadership, (2) Participation and Partnership, (3) Information, Feedback and Action, and (4) Results. These commitments reflect essential developments such as the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS), and the work done by the IASC on Inter-Agency community-based complaints mechanisms, including Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

(PSEA). They also reflect the importance of meaningful collaboration with local stakeholders. The latter was a priority recommendation from the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit as well as the Grand Bargain.

IASC Gender Handbook in Humanitarian Action establishes standards for the integration of gender issues from the outset of an emergency so that humanitarian services reach their target audience and have maximum impact. The Handbook was published in 2006.

IASC Guidelines for Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Settings enable Governments, humanitarian organizations and communities to establish and coordinate a set of minimum multi-sectoral interventions to prevent and respond to gender-based violence during the early phase of an emergency. They were established by the IASC in 2005.

IASC Principles on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by UN and non-UN Entities are six principles outlined in the Secretary-General's Bulletin *Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse* (ST/SGB/2003/13). They are binding on UN staff and related personnel.

Community-Based Complaint Mechanism Best Practice Guide reflects the work of the international humanitarian community over the past decade to establish clear guidelines and global standard operating procedures to strengthen the response to allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian actors. The Best Practice Guide compiles lessons learned in the implementation of pilot projects in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ethiopia. It provides instructions on how to set up and run an interagency community-based complaint mechanism to handle reports of abuse by humanitarian aid workers and to provide victim assistance. It was endorsed by the IASC Principals in 2016.

End of chapter notes

III.

HUMANITARIAN ACTORS

III. HUMANITARIAN ACTORS

If a Government requests and/or accepts external assistance, a variety of international humanitarian actors may be asked to support disaster response and disaster response preparedness, including the UN, RCRC Movement, regional intergovernmental bodies, NGOs, assisting Governments, foreign militaries, and the private sector.[1] Below is a short description of these different categories of international humanitarian actors.

HOW TO READ THIS SECTION

Each category and sub-category of humanitarian actor includes and short description of who it is, what it does and how it works with Governments.

A. UNITED NATIONS

UN Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies (UN Agencies) have their membership, leadership and budget processes separate from the UN Secretariat, but they are committed to work with and through the established UN coordination mechanisms and report to the UN Member States through their respective governing boards. The UN agencies, most of which also have pre-existing development-focused relationships with Member States, provide sector-specific support and expertise before, during and after a disaster. The main UN agencies with humanitarian mandates include Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA), UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), UN-Habitat, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Women, World Food Programme (WFP) and World Health Organization (WHO). These agencies support a variety of disaster response needs. These include shelter, protection, food security, health, nutrition, education and livelihoods as well as common services like coordination, logistics and telecommunications.

---

1   Because the scope of the Guide is limited to response and response preparedness, it is not possible to fully describe the significant community of regional and international intergovernmental organizations that work in disaster mitigation and risk reduction. Three examples include UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC) and the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR) of the World Bank.

OCHA is the department in the UN Secretariat mandated to support the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) at the global-level, and the UN Resident and/or Humanitarian Coordinator at the country-level.[2]

HOW DO UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

At the country-level, the UN system works in partnership with National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) and with respective Government line ministries on emergency response preparedness and response.

B. RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement is the world's largest humanitarian network, comprising nearly 100 million members, volunteers and supporters in 190 National Societies. Structurally, the RCRC Movement has three core components:

1. National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
2. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
3. International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Together, these components operate worldwide. Their mission is to prevent and alleviate human suffering wherever it may be found, to protect life and health, and to ensure respect for human beings, particularly in times of armed conflict and other emergencies. The Movement works in accordance with the fundamental principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (National Societies) occupy a unique place as auxiliaries to the public authorities in their countries. They provide disaster relief, support health and social programmes, and promote international humanitarian law and humanitarian values.

---

2 Detailed descriptions of the functions of the Emergency Relief Coordinator (page 43), the UN Resident Coordinator (page 48), the Humanitarian Coordinator (page 48) and OCHA (page 55) are provided in Chapter IV "International Coordination Mechanisms".

HOW DO NATIONAL SOCIETIES WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

National Societies work alongside national and local public authorities in disaster situations. In Asia-Pacific, national societies are generally the first points of contact for Governments requesting additional support from IFRC (in natural disasters) and ICRC (in situations of armed conflict). National societies are not NGOs, so they have a different relationship with Governments and public authorities than registered NGOs.

International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) coordinates and directs assistance in natural disasters in support of the National Society. IFRC and National Societies also undertake preparedness, response and development work activities. These include disaster preparedness, emergency health, disaster law, water and sanitation, and humanitarian diplomacy.

HOW DOES IFRC WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

IFRC interfaces with Governments directly and through the National Societies. In a disaster response, IFRC provides leadership in the development of crisis management policies and programming approaches, facilitates Movement coordination and cooperation, and supports operations through Emergency Plans of Actions and resource mobilization efforts. In Asia-Pacific, the IFRC has 10 offices, led from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, which support the humanitarian work of 38 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and which respond each year to more than 40 per cent of the world's disasters and public health emergencies.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization mandated to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and other situations of violence. During armed conflict, ICRC is responsible for directing and coordinating the RCRC Movement's international relief activities. ICRC promotes International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and draws attention to universal humanitarian principles. ICRC has been granted observer status to the UN General Assembly. Its headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland and it has country and regional offices throughout Asia and the Pacific.

HOW DOES ICRC WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

Based on its mandate under the 1949 Geneva Conventions, the ICRC deals directly with Governments. In situations of armed conflict and other situations of violence, the ICRC may coordinate the activities of other components of the RCRC Movement.

C. REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL FORUMS

In the Asia-Pacific region, there are many intergovernmental organizations that offer humanitarian tools and services to Member States and participating States. Several regional intergovernmental organizations and forums active in emergency preparedness and response are described here (Figure 5):

1. Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
2. ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)
3. East Asia Summit (EAS)
4. South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
5. Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)
6. Pacific Community (SPC)
7. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was formed in 1967 following the signing of the ASEAN Declaration by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The aim was to ensure economic, social, cultural, technical and education cooperation, and to promote regional peace and stability through respect for justice and the rule of law and adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter. Since the early 2000s, ASEAN has increased its focus on and investment in disaster management. This is a result of the high exposure many of its Member States have to natural disasters and their experience of various disasters, including the 2004 Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami disaster and the 2008 Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar. The ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), signed in July 2005, is the first legally-binding regional framework in this area.

In late 2015, ASEAN produced its ASEAN Vision 2025 and corresponding ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management. These set ambitious targets for ASEAN's forward trajectory on peace and security, economic and socio-cultural issues. It also integrated the organization's and its Member States' commitments with international frameworks such as the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and, by implication, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change Action and World Humanitarian Summit. Following its 2016 Summit, ASEAN also adopted the "One ASEAN One Response" Declaration, which states that, by 2020, ASEAN should be able to "respond to disasters outside the region, where appropriate, in partnership with regional and international agencies and centres."

The **ASEAN Secretariat (ASEC)** was set up in 1976 by the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN countries to initiate, facilitate and coordinate ASEAN stakeholder collaboration in order to realise the purposes and principles of ASEAN as reflected in the ASEAN Charter. Its primary role is ensuring greater efficiency in the coordination of ASEAN organs for more effective implementation of ASEAN projects and activities. Within ASEC the **Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (DMHA) Division** serves as the AADMER secretariat, facilitating and monitoring progress in the implementation of the AADMER and its Work Programme. The Division works closely with relevant ASEAN bodies, in particular the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), as well as with the AHA Centre, ASEAN Dialogue Partners, the United Nations, civil society partners, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the private sector, academia, and other entities. The ASEC is located in Jakarta, Indonesia.

HOW DOES ASEAN WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

As the primary regional coordinating agency in disaster management, the AHA Centre is the first point of contact for ASEAN Member States in the event of a disaster. In the event of large-scale disasters or pandemics, the AHA Centre's Executive Director assumes the role of ASEAN HAC and coordinates with ASEAN's Secretary General.

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), whose membership extends beyond the 10 ASEAN Member States to include 27 participants,[3] is a platform developed to foster constructive dialogue and consultation on political and security issues of common interest, including cooperation on disaster management. All ARF initiatives and activities abide by the principle of co-chairmanship, whereby each initiative/activity are co-chaired by at least one ASEAN Member State and at least one non-ASEAN ARF member.

HOW DOES ARF WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

The ARF provides a platform for dialogue through a series of annual meetings. The most senior of these is held annually at the Foreign Minister level in conjunction with the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and Post Ministerial Conference.

---

3 It also contributes to confidence-building and preventive diplomacy in the region. In addition to the 10 ASEAN Member States, current members include Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the European Union, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mongolia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Russia, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and the United States.

East Asia Summit (EAS) is a regional forum for dialogue on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern. It brings together the leaders of the 10 ASEAN Member States, as well as Australia, China, Japan, India, Korea, New Zealand, Russian Federation and the United States. Disaster response and humanitarian assistance are among the wide range of regional concerns covered by the EAS agenda.

HOW DOES EAS WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

As an intergovernmental forum, the EAS meets at the Head of State level each year following the annual ASEAN leaders' meeting, but it does not have a permanent secretariat entity. Agreed initiatives may be carried out by EAS members on behalf of the forum, such as the EAS Rapid Disaster Response Toolkit developed by Emergency Management Australia and Indonesia's National Agency for Disaster Management (BNPB) in collaboration with the NDMOs of the 18 EAS participating countries and in consultation with the ACDM.

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established in 1985 and comprises eight Member States: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. SAARC's objectives, as laid out in its Charter, include promoting the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and improving their quality of life; accelerating economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region; promoting and strengthening collective self-reliance; and promoting active collaboration and mutual assistance in economic, social, cultural, technical and scientific fields. SAARC's identified areas of cooperation include Environment, Natural Disasters and Biotechnology. SAARC's humanitarian architecture, comprised of the Disaster Management Centre (SDMC) and the SAARC Agreement on Rapid Response to Natural Disasters, was signed in November 2011.

Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) is an international organization established by treaty with 16 Member States across the Pacific region.[4] The PIF is mandated to stimulate economic growth and enhance political governance and security for the region through the provision of policy advice. Additionally, it is mandated to strengthen regional cooperation and integration by coordinating, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of leaders' decisions. The PIF secretariat is in Suva, Fiji.

---

4 PIF members are Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. In addition to SPC and PIF, Pacific Island countries are also networked through the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), which focuses on climate change and resource sustainability.

HOW DOES PIF WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

PIF holds an annual meeting at Head of Government level, followed by a Post Forum Dialogue with key Government partners. Discussions include disaster response and disaster response preparedness.

Pacific Community (SPC) supports the 22 Pacific Island countries and territories[5] by addressing the risks posed by climate vulnerability and natural disasters. PC is engaged in all sciences concerned with the Earth, including geological, physical, chemical and biological processes. The PC organizes its work according to three technical programme areas: oceans and islands; water and sanitation; and disaster reduction. Its headquarters are in Suva, Fiji.

HOW DOES SPC WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

Although not involved in disaster response, the PC provides Member States with basic geological knowledge to support their disaster response preparedness capabilities.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a forum of 21 Pacific Rim economies promoting free trade and economic cooperation. The APEC Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) coordinates and facilitates emergency and disaster preparedness within APEC. The EPWG is focused on reducing the risk of disasters and building business and community resilience through capacity building, information exchange, knowledge sharing and collaboration among its 21-member economies. In 2015, APEC Leaders adopted the APEC Disaster Reduction Risk Framework to address concerns resulting from the persistence of disasters in Asia-Pacific Region.

HOW DOES APEC WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

The APEC Emergency Preparedness Working Group is co-chaired by two-member economies for two years and meets three times a year, including once with the heads of NDMOs. It holds additional workshops as required.

---

5 SPC membership comprises the PIF nations plus the territories of American Samoa, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia, Northern Mariana Islands, Pitcairn Islands, Tokelau and Wallis and Futuna, as well as France and the United States of America.

Figure 5. Regional Organizations and Intergovernmental Forums in Asia-Pacific
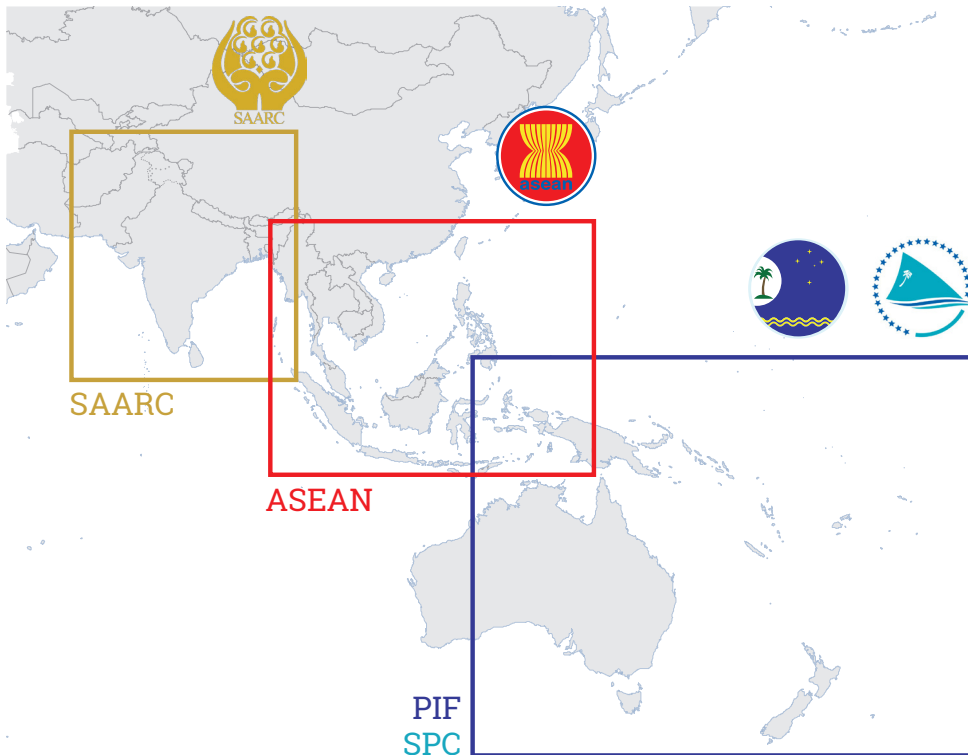
Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)
Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
comprises the PIF nations plus the territories of American Samoa, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia, Northern Mariana Islands, Pitcairn Islands, Tokelau and Wallis and Futuna, as well as France and the United States of America.

East Asia Summit (EAS)
Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand, United States, and Viet Nam.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Indonesia, Japan, South korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United States of America, Taiwan Province of China, Hong Kong, China, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Chile, Peru, Russia and Viet Nam.

CASE STUDY 1. INTEROPERABILITY BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly called for strengthening cooperation between the UN and regional and sub-regional organizations via frameworks reflecting the comparative advantages of the UN and regional organizations. It also called for the need to institutionalise and consolidate the interdependence into policy.

Regional organizations are increasingly active in humanitarian action, working to mobilize their membership to support the Government of an affected member state. One of the most advanced regional organizations in this regard is ASEAN.

Since 2011, ASEAN and the UN have elaborated their cooperation on disaster management through the ASEAN-UN Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management (JSPADM). The JSPADM outlines the mutual intentions and commitments of participating ASEAN and UN entities and agencies, and is guided by the strategies and priorities incorporated by ASEAN in its AADMER Work Programme. The current iteration of the JSPADM, which covers the period 2016-2020, is organized according to the eight priority programmes included in the AADMER Work Programme (2016-2020).

A practical example of ASEAN-UN interoperability under the JSPADM is the work undertaken by ASEAN and OCHA on response coordination. At the strategic level, OCHA and ASEAN's joint commitment to humanitarian advocacy, coordination, planning and financing have been codified through development and agreement of an Interoperability Brief that details how the ASEAN Secretary-General, when acting as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator (AHAC), and the United Nations ERC and their respective offices will work together during and in between major disaster responses.

At the operational level, OCHA and the AHA Centre are also working to enhance interoperability between deployable international and regional response mechanisms, such as the UNDAC and ERAT teams, and the coordination platforms that they establish and support, the OSOCC and JOCCA. Thus, UNDAC and ERAT regularly participate in joint simulation exercises and training to test their interoperability in terms of coordination, assessment, information sharing, and response planning. Building on this practical experience, OCHA and AHA Centre have developed a set of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the UNDAC and ERAT systems, for use in training team members and to guide their interaction during response.

D. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Civil-society actors can be divided into two categories: national and community-based non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international NGOs (INGOs). In addition to their independent relationships with Governments, NGOs assemble themselves according to networks and consortia on global, regional and national or sub-national levels.

National and community-based NGOs are civil-society organizations that function within the national borders of their home country. These NGOs, often in partnership with UN agencies and larger international NGOs, support the emergency preparedness and response activities of communities and national Governments. They generally possess strong community-based networks that are critical for reaching disaster-affected communities. National NGOs are officially registered as national organizations with their host Governments and can be either secular or faith-based entities.

International NGOs operating in emergency preparedness and response include humanitarian and multi-mandated organizations that work independently to provide humanitarian assistance. The largest international NGOs, in terms of annual expenditure, are generally based in North America and Europe, and have regional and country offices across Asia and the Pacific and other parts of the world.[6] There are also a growing number of NGOs based in Asia and the Pacific with programmes of international reach. International NGOs receive regular funding from donor Governments, private foundations and corporations, but an increasing proportion of their resources now comes from the general public in their countries of origin and countries of operation. Like national NGOs, international NGOs can also be secular or faith-based.

HOW DO NGOS WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

National and international NGOs often organize themselves according to consortia to engage with Government systems. Many NGOs also engage directly with Governments at local or, for larger NGOs, at the national level. In most countries, there are a number of national NGO consortia that do not attempt to be broadly representative of the entire NGO community. These will interface with Governments on sector-specific bases.

The presence of international NGOs in host countries is facilitated by an official registration with the host Government and guided by individual memorandums of understanding with NDMOs and line ministries engaged in humanitarian and development activities. Many

---

6 According to ALNAP, the five largest international NGOs, measured by expenditure on humanitarian programming in 2015, were Médecins sans Frontières, International Rescue Committee, Oxfam International, the International Save the Children Alliance, and World Vision International.

international NGOs are engaged in ongoing disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction (DRR), or development work in countries, which helps them to quickly respond during a humanitarian crisis. In some countries there is an INGO Forum, which is the main point of engagement for international and national coordination structures.

CASE STUDY 2. NGO ORGANIZATION FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION AT REGIONAL AND GLOBAL-LEVELS

At regional and international levels, NGO consortia are key to ensuring NGOs are strongly engaged and have a collective voice in humanitarian affairs.

In Asia and the Pacific, 53 national NGOs from 20 countries participate in a regional consortium called the **Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN)**. ADRRN aims to promote coordination and information sharing among NGOs and other stakeholders for effective disaster reduction and response. With a strong footprint in the region, the network members are constantly engaged with local communities, thereby; strengthening their disaster resilience; providing humanitarian aid like food, water, shelter and health care; protecting critical facilities like schools and hospitals; creating awareness; advocating for policy changes and improving the capacity of community-based organizations.

The **South Asia Together for Humanitarian Imperative (SATHI)** is made up of eight country-based NGO networks from the countries in SAARC region. This regional collaboration initiative provides a platform for civil society exchange, learning and knowledge sharing, collaborative advocacy and technical or operational capacity sharing.

The **AADMER Partnership Group (APG)** is a regional network of NGOs in ASEAN region. This network currently consists of six international NGOs and is chaired by a regional NGO (Mercy Malaysia). The APG is presently in the process of broadening its membership to include more regional NGOs and national NGO consortia, with the aim of achieving over 50% regional membership by mid-2018.

The **Asia Preparedness Partnership (APP)** is a regional platform that brings together NGO consortia, NDMO and private sector representatives from six countries to support each other in disaster preparedness activities. The secretariat of the APP is provided by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre.

The **International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)** is a global network of over 110 national, regional and international NGOs. ICVA's mission is to make humanitarian action more principled and effective by supporting NGOs' efforts to influence policy and practice. ICVA is based in Geneva, Switzerland and has established regional hubs in Africa, Middle East and Asia to better support NGOs at regional and national levels.

InterAction is an alliance of 180+ international NGOs and partners committed to eliminating extreme poverty and vulnerability, strengthening human rights and citizen participation, safeguarding a sustainable planet, promoting peace, and ensuring dignity for all people.

The **Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR)** is a voluntary alliance of nine of the world's leading international NGOs. The SCHR supports quality, accountability and learning in humanitarian action.

The **START Network**, made up of 42 national and international aid agencies, aims to change the humanitarian system through a range of innovative aid programmes and by developing new forms of aid finance.

The **NEAR Network** is a newly-formed global network, consisting of local and national organizations united by the goal of making sure that humanitarian action is locally-led and that more efficient and effective aid is delivered to people in need.

E. ASSISTING GOVERNMENTS

Assisting (donor) Governments are central to disaster response. Governments can assist directly through bilateral contributions to affected States, including through the mobilization of in-kind aid of MCDA. They can also channel funding through multilateral agencies such as UN agencies, regional organizations, the RCRC Movement and NGOs. Several Governments routinely respond to the needs of disaster-affected States, both from within the Asia and the Pacific region as well as from Europe and the Americas (Figure 6).

HOW DO ASSISTING GOVERNMENTS WORK WITH AFFECTED GOVERNMENTS?

Many assisting Governments have established aid cooperation structures, often embedded in their respective Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The day-to-day management of the cooperation takes place through the embassies in the affected countries.

Figure 6. Active Donors in Asia-Pacific

This graphic provides an overview of the top donors to the Asia-Pacific countries that suffered significant disasters each year between 2013-2017.

2017 - BANGLADESH

Top Donor	Amount (US$)
United States of America	**115,952,000**
United Kingdom	65,898,000
Sweden	26,324,000
EU*	25,341,000
Central Emergency Response Fund	24,165,000

2016 - FIJI

Top Donor	Amount (US$)
Australia	**22,322,000**
Central Emergency Response Fund	8,022,000
United States of America	3,728,000
New Zealand	3,075,000
EU*	1,122,000

2015 - NEPAL

Top Donor	Amount (US$)
United States of America	**71,181,000**
Norway	33,385,000
United Kingdom	30,359,000
EU*	25,914,000
China	22,584,000

2014 - PHILIPPINES

Top Donor	Amount (US$)
Australia	**22,322,000**
Central Emergency Response Fund	8,022,000
United States of America	3,728,000
New Zealand	3,075,000
EU*	1,122,000

2013 - AFGHANISTAN

Top Donor	Amount (US$)
United States of America	**97,047,000**
Japan	77,122,000
Denmark	45,891,000
EU*	41,024,000
Canada	39,040,000

- refugee crisis
- flooding
- typhoon/cyclone
- earthquake
- conflict

*European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department

Source: FTS (Feb 2018)

F. FOREIGN MILITARY ASSETS

In large-scale natural disasters, where affected States request, welcome or accept international assistance, **foreign military assets (FMA)** are increasingly involved in response operations. FMA may deploy in another sovereign country on the basis of bilateral agreements, such as a Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), or multilateral agreements between Governments.

For its part, the humanitarian community must determine a basic strategy and a coherent and consistent approach towards interaction with military actors and the use of foreign and/or national military assets to support humanitarian response operations.

OCHA and dedicated Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination (UN-CMCoord) personnel have developed a UN-CMCoord strategy. It outlines the appropriate coordination mechanisms and liaison arrangements with national and/ or foreign military actors as necessary. This includes establishing links to all humanitarian actors and coordination bodies, as well as appropriate staffing and training within all organizations involved.

HOW DO FMA WORK IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENTS

Most requests for FMA by humanitarian organizations are for indirect assistance and infrastructure support, including engineering, transport and air lift capacity. FMA should only be deployed at the request, or with the consent, of the affected state and should be provided at no cost. FMA should be requested only where they can satisfy a critical humanitarian need and where there is no comparable civilian alternative, i.e. they are unique in capability and availability. According to the context and applicable UN-CMCoord strategy, a dedicated Request for Assistance (RFA) process for the use of FMA should be established as early as possible in the operation.

G. PRIVATE SECTOR

The Private sector is a fundamental part of local communities affected by humanitarian crises, and it has long been engaged in humanitarian emergency preparedness, response and recovery. Private sector actors are present before humanitarian crises occur and as crises unfold, and they are among the first part of society to respond. Both small and large private sector actors, whether they are operating directly in humanitarian contexts or indirectly through supply chains, can leverage their own expertise, resources, channels and influence to

address humanitarian needs and make positive contributions to long-term sustainable peace and development. They can do so independently by working directly with people affected by humanitarian crises, as well as by collaborating with humanitarian organizations at the local, regional and international levels.

Connecting Business initiative (CBi) is a private sector-led, multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to transform the way the private sector engages before, during and after humanitarian crises. Led by OCHA and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), CBi supports private sector networks' efforts to create more resilient communities through coordinated action in disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, response and recovery. Through the CBi network, private sector entities are connected and contribute to country-based structures. Such collective action shows significant benefits and helps companies to:

1. Protect their business and value chains from shocks by integrating disaster risk reduction into investment and business processes;

2. Stream-line their engagement through a single, coordinated channel rather than as individual entities;

3. Identify partnership opportunities as a result of their connection to national disaster management planning, policies and processes;

4. Pool their resources for greater impact and fewer transaction costs;

5. Access information that helps them to disseminate alerts and information in emergency situations, receive advice and connect to a support network of CBi global partners as well as CBi Member Networks; and

6. Contribute to improving policies and regulations through collective private sector voice.

At the start of 2018, CBi supported five platforms in Asia and the Pacific – in Fiji, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vanuatu, as well as a regional platform in the Pacific (Figure 7).

For more information: www.connectingbusiness.org

Figure 7. Connecting Business Initiative National Hubs in Asia-Pacific
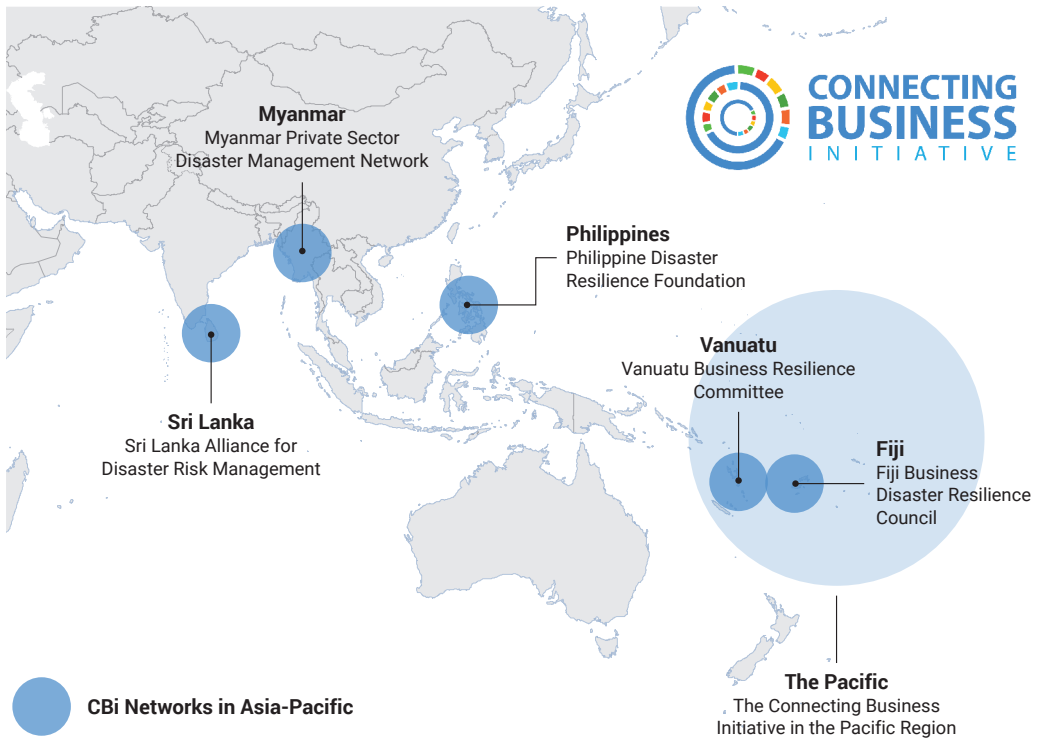
HOW DOES THE PRIVATE SECTOR WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

Governments may be approached by private sector companies that wish to offer assistance and should examine those offers on their own merits. The modalities for private sector assistance are varied, and it may be convenient to reach out to a broader spectrum of companies interested in contributing to disaster relief through the national or local level Chamber of Commerce (or equivalent) or CBi Network, where they exist.

The majority of private sector support for disaster response is conducted independently. Although the private sector has its own engagement with communities, it should, like other humanitarian stakeholders, coordinate activities with Governments and follow national response planning and strategies.

End of chapter notes

IV.

INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

IV. INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Effective disaster response requires careful coordination at global, regional and national levels. As noted above, the UN has established a number of interdependent coordination mechanisms designed to facilitate the interaction between humanitarian stakeholders, Governments and other partners to promote the delivery of coherent and principled assistance to crisis-affected people.

This section of the Guide describes the structure and operating protocols of the principal international coordination frameworks, with details on how the component mechanisms work during both the emergency response and emergency response preparedness phases. It also offers information about how these coordination mechanisms interrelate with one another and how they work with Governments. Figure 8 shows the network of global, regional, and country-level as well as bridging mechanisms that are in place. Specifically, these include:

A. GLOBAL-LEVEL MECHANISMS

1. Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC)
2. Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)

B. REGIONAL-LEVEL MECHANISMS

1. Inter-Agency Standing Committee Regional Network for Asia and the Pacific (IASC RN)
2. Regional Consultative Group (RCG) on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination
3. Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT)
4. ASEAN Committee for Disaster Management (ACDM)

C. COUNTRY-LEVEL MECHANISMS

1. Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators (RC/HC)
2. Humanitarian Country Team (HCT)

D. COORDINATING ACTORS

1. Cluster Approach
2. Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination (UN-CMCoord)

3. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

4. ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Action on Disaster Management (AHA Centre)

5. SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC)

Government-led coordination frameworks vary by country and are usually described in national disaster management frameworks or legislation. It is beyond the scope of the Guide to include such national coordination frameworks here.

A. GLOBAL-LEVEL MECHANISMS

Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) is the most senior UN official dealing with humanitarian affairs and is mandated by the UN General Assembly to coordinate international humanitarian assistance during emergency response, whether carried out by governmental, intergovernmental or non-governmental organizations (Figure 8). S/he reports directly to the UN Secretary-General and is specifically responsible for processing Members States' requests; coordinating humanitarian assistance; ensuring information management and sharing to support early warning and response; facilitating access to emergency areas; organizing needs assessments; preparing joint appeals; mobilizing resources to support humanitarian response; and supporting a smooth transition from relief to recovery operations.

HOW DOES THE ERC WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

The ERC is responsible for overseeing and coordinating all emergencies requiring international humanitarian assistance as well as supervising the actions of country-level UN Resident Coordinators (RCs) and Humanitarian Coordinators (HCs.). S/he also plays a central role in advocacy and fundraising for humanitarian action.

Figure 8. IASC Humanitarian Leadership Structure
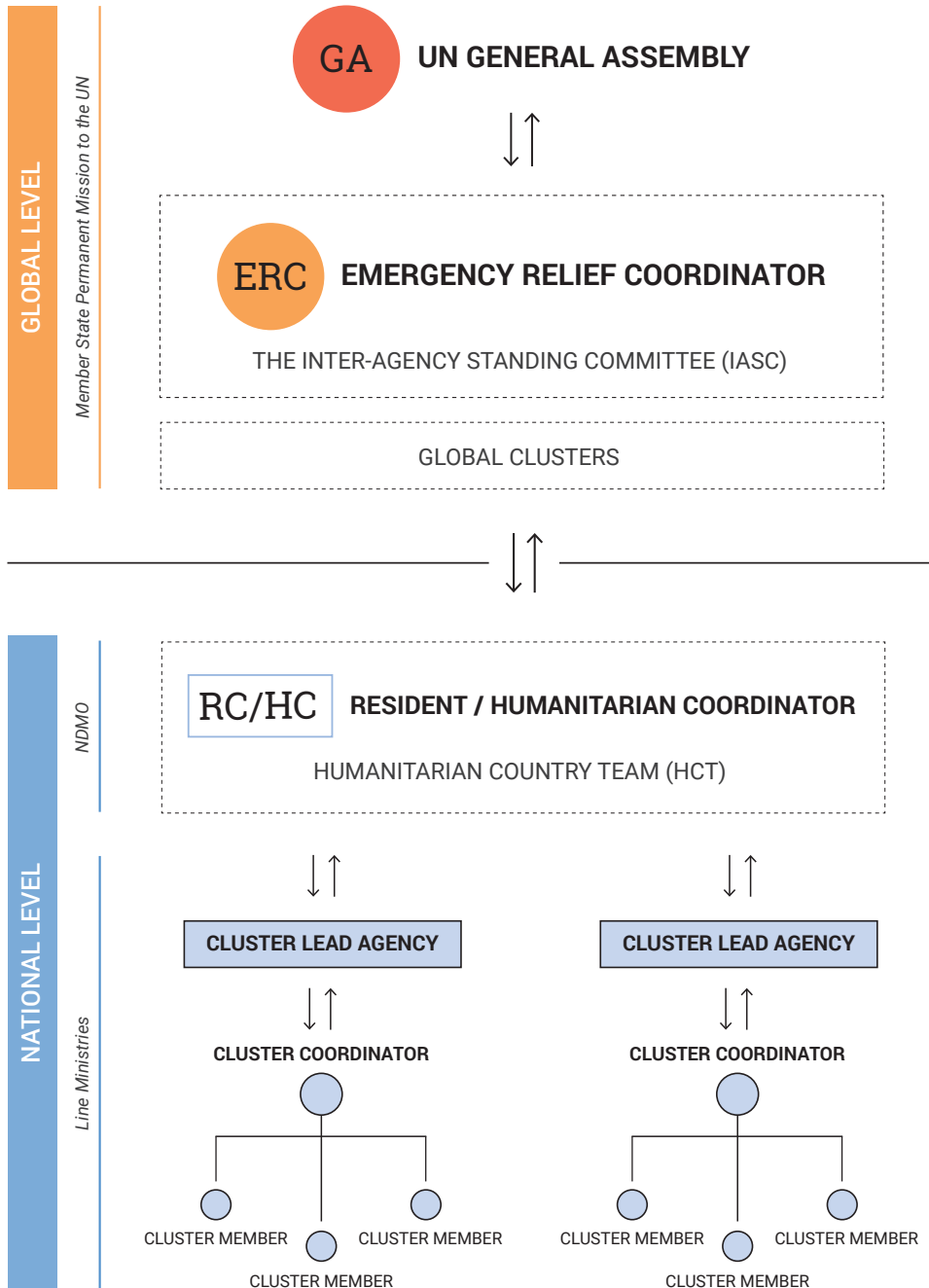
Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) is an inter-agency forum for coordination, policy development and decision-making involving key UN and non-UN humanitarian partners. It is chaired by the ERC. IASC members are FAO, OCHA, IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. IASC Standing Invitees are ICRC, ICVA, IFRC, InterAction, OHCHR, SCHR, Office of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons and the World Bank (Figure 9).

The IASC works to improve the effectiveness of the humanitarian system as a whole. In addition to meeting at the Principals level, the IASC has a number of subsidiary groups. The **IASC Working Group** is composed of the directors of policy (or equivalent) of the IASC organizations. The IASC Working Group's focus is humanitarian policy. It is responsible for developing policies and guidance in line with strategic decisions made by the IASC; making proposals to the IASC on strategic issues; establishing and overseeing the work of the Task Teams[1]; establishing and monitoring the Reference Groups[2]; and collaborating with the **Emergency Directors Group (EDG)** in identifying and elaborating policy matters with direct bearing on humanitarian operations. The EDG is composed of the directors of operations of the IASC organizations and focuses on overseeing humanitarian operations worldwide. When required by the magnitude or gravity of a crisis, the EDG may take a more direct supervisory role in a humanitarian response, supporting operational decision-making by the humanitarian community at the national level.

HOW DOES THE IASC WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

The IASC and its subsidiary bodies are global mechanisms. At the country-level, Humanitarian Country Teams (HCTs) fulfil a similar function and have similar membership as the IASC, and are made up of humanitarian organizations that are resident or working in the host country.

---

1 Time-bound Task Teams work towards the expected outcomes of thematic priorities. There are Task Teams on Accountability to Affected Populations and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse; Humanitarian Financing; Protection (under the Global Protection Cluster); and Strengthening the Humanitarian/Development Nexus with a Focus on Protracted Contexts.

2 Reference Groups are voluntary communities of practice affiliated to, but not directly overseen by, the IASC. Reference Groups include, Risk, Early Warning and Preparedness; Gender and Humanitarian Action; Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas; Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings; Protracted Displacements

Figure 9. Inter-Agency Standing Committee

MEMBERS

STANDING INVITEES

B. REGIONAL-LEVEL MECHANISMS

Inter-Agency Standing Committee Regional Network for Asia and the Pacific (IASC RN) is an informal coordination platform chaired by OCHA. It has the same membership as the IASC but at the regional-level. The IASC RN's agenda is primarily focused on supporting emergency preparedness for response at the regional-level; ensuring high quality response throughout the region, including advocacy on humanitarian protection, access and other human rights close to the humanitarian agenda; and supporting the regional contextualization and implementation of global humanitarian policy and guidance.

The IASC RN meets twice-yearly for regular meetings at the Director level. It has two subsidiary groups – the Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG) and the Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group (GiHA) – that meet on a quarterly basis. There is also a regional cash working group affiliated with the IASC RN.

Regional Consultative Group (RCG) on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination for Asia and the Pacific was established in 2014 to act as a multi-stakeholder, regional forum that brings together humanitarian, civilian and military actors involved in planning for and responding to disasters in the region. The RCG was formed to discuss response preparedness planning, with a focus on the coordination of operational planning between civilian and military actors in priority countries in the region – Bangladesh, Nepal, Indonesia, Myanmar and the Philippines. It also facilitates the exchange of information and innovative ideas; thereby enabling well-coordinated and needs-based effective disaster responses. Finally, it strengthens linkages with other relevant platforms, emphasising in particular the relationship with regional organizations and the Global Consultative Group on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination. The RCG is led by Member States in Asia and the Pacific with support from OCHA.

Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) is a specialized Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in the Pacific covering 14 Pacific Island countries and territories. The PHT is a network of humanitarian organizations that works together to assist Pacific Island countries to prepare for and respond to disasters. The PHT works with Pacific Governments and partners to ensure that necessary arrangements are in place to enable effective international support to nationally led disaster response. The PHT has been endorsed as a coordinating body by the IASC and is itself organized through nine regional clusters to support national coordination mechanisms, including two regional working groups on CASH and communication. OCHA co-chairs the PHT with the RC. For more information about the PHT visit: www.reliefweb.int/report/world/pacific-humanitarian-team-commitment-action

ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), established in 2003,[3] comprises representatives of the NDMOs from each ASEAN Member State and has overall responsibility for coordinating and implementing regional disaster management activities for the 10 ASEAN Member States. The ACDM provides policy oversight and is supervising the implementation of the AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020.

CASE STUDY 3. CIVIL-MILITARY COORDINATION

One of the first recommendations of the RCG was to enhance the predictability and to develop a common understanding of the civil-military coordination mechanisms and their respective functions during a response. *Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination in Disaster Response: Towards a Predictable Model* outlines key civil-military coordination mechanisms and how these are activated during disaster response in Asia and the Pacific in line with global and regional frameworks and guidance. With five different country-focused chapters for each of the priority countries, this publication expands understanding of the unique context for humanitarian civil-military coordination in the Asia region, and seeks to further strengthen linkages between global, regional and national guidance and structures for civil-military coordination in disaster response.

C. COUNTRY-LEVEL MECHANISMS

UN Resident Coordinator (UN RC) is the designated representative of the UN Secretary-General in a country and the leader of the UN Country Team (UNCT). The Resident Coordinator is supported by the UN Resident Coordinator Office (UNRCO), and s/he is accredited by letter from the UN Secretary-General to the Head of State or Government.

Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) is appointed by the ERC, in consultation with the IASC, when large-scale and/or sustained international humanitarian assistance is required in a country. The decision to assign a HC to a country is often made at the start of a disaster or rapid deterioration of a crisis, and it is made in consultation with the affected Government. In some cases, the ERC may choose to designate the UN RC as the HC. In others, another Head of Agency (UN and/or an INGO participating in the coordinated response system) may be appointed, and/or a stand-alone HC may be deployed from a pre-selected pool of HC

---

3   The ACDM has existed since the 1970s, but it was significantly strengthened in 2003.

candidates. The HC assumes the leadership of the HCT in a crisis. In the absence of a HC, the UN RC is responsible for the strategic and operational coordination of response efforts of UNCT member agencies and other relevant humanitarian actors.

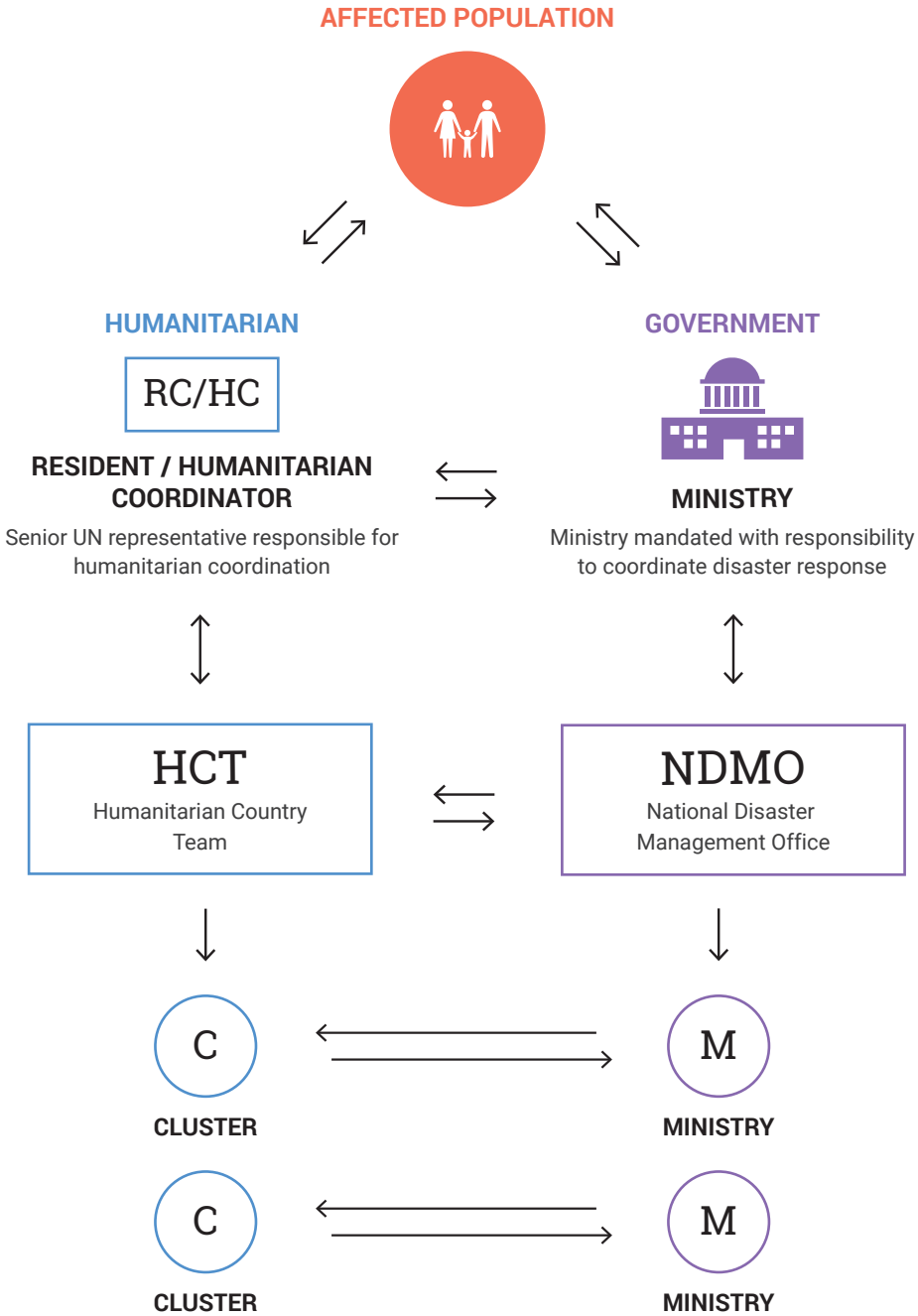## HOW DOES THE RC AND/OR HC WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

The UN RC is the senior UN official in a country and the Government's first point of contact with the United Nations (Figure 10). The RC chairs the UNCT and is responsible for coordination of all UN operational activities. However, if an HC is appointed, s/he assumes leadership on humanitarian response and supports the coordination of all relevant humanitarian organizations (UN and non-UN). The HC is then the Government's first point of contact on disaster response. In a humanitarian situation where no HC has been appointed, the UN RC remains the Government's first point of contact and may chair a humanitarian country team as well as the UNCT.

Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) is an in-country decision-making forum focused on providing common strategic and policy guidance on issues related to humanitarian action. HCT membership generally mirrors that of the IASC at the country-level. It is composed of UN and non-UN humanitarian organizations that are resident and/or working in the country as well as national NGOs. The HCT is chaired by the HC, or in the absence of an HC, by the UN RC. Some HCTs have also decided to include representatives of key assisting Governments and/or private sector networks in their membership.

HOW DOES AN HCT WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

An HCT's primary function is to provide strategic and policy guidance to humanitarian actors; however, it can also serve as a senior-level central point of interface for Governments (Figure 10). When appropriate, it may help develop humanitarian response plans aligned with national response plans.

Figure 10. IASC Coordination and Interface with Government

AFFECTED POPULATION

HUMANITARIAN

RC/HC

RESIDENT / HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR

Senior UN representative responsible for humanitarian coordination

GOVERNMENT

MINISTRY

Ministry mandated with responsibility to coordinate disaster response

HCT
Humanitarian Country Team

NDMO
National Disaster Management Office

C

CLUSTER

M

MINISTRY

C

CLUSTER

M

MINISTRY

D. COORDINATING ACTORS

Cluster Approach is the IASC-managed framework adopted as part of the 2005 Humanitarian Reform. It established organizational groupings of both UN and non-UN operational agencies in each of the main sectors of humanitarian action (Figure 11). Clusters operate at the global and country-levels to support national Governments in managing international assistance.

At the global-level, clusters are responsible for strengthening system-wide preparedness and coordinating technical capacity to respond to humanitarian emergencies in their respective sectors. Where required, country-level clusters can be established at the onset of a disaster. Based on an in-country assessment of continued need, they may or may not remain following the initial phases of response. At the country-level, clusters ensure that humanitarian organizations' activities are coordinated and serve as a first point of call for the Government, the UN RC and the HC (Figure 10). To the extent possible, clusters mirror national response structures[4], use terminology that is close or identical to that of the national sectors, and are co-chaired by Government representatives.

Globally, 11 clusters have been established with designated cluster lead agencies that are accountable to the IASC. At the country-level, the clusters[5] are led by a country-level agency or NGO representatives accountable to the UN RC or the HC. However, cluster lead agencies at the country-level do not need to be the same agency as the sector's global cluster lead. Instead, cluster leadership should be based on the local context and the capacities of agencies already on the ground. The structure of clusters at the country-level should also be adapted to local needs; in Asia-Pacific, there are 17 countries with active clusters/sectors (Figure 12). Sub-national clusters may be established where required, and similarly, the local cluster leads do not need to be the same as those designated at the country-level. Uniquely in the Pacific, the PHT is a regional cluster arrangement that supports national coordination arrangements.

HOW DO CLUSTERS WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

In-country clusters support the response needs of Governments through hand-in-hand support to line ministries. In-country clusters are accessed through the HC, the HCT or cluster lead organizations.

For more information: www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/coordination/clusters

---

4   Some clusters that are established to coordinate common services such as logistics and emergency telecommunications may not have national counterparts.

5   In some countries in Asia-Pacific, the term sector is preferred.

Figure 11. Cluster Approach
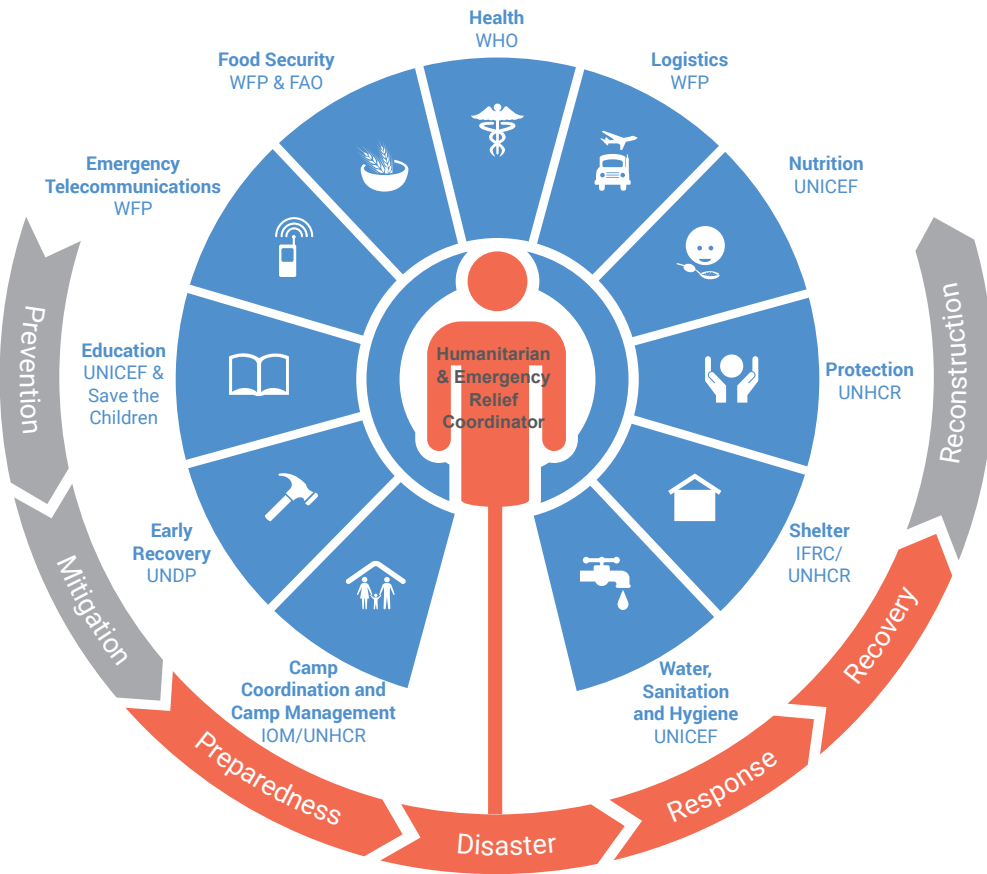
Figure 12. Countries with Active IASC Clusters / Sectors
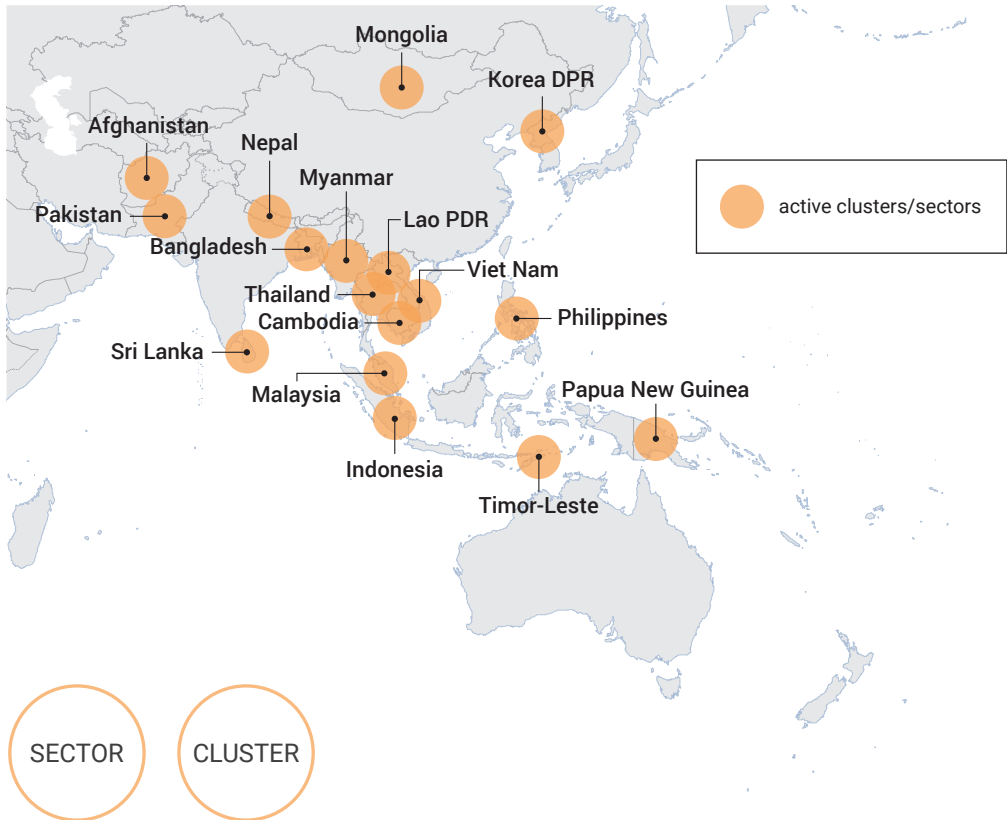
SECTOR   CLUSTER

What is the difference between a Sector and a Cluster?

'Sector' refers to a discrete technical area of humanitarian action. The implementation of the Cluster approach seeks to formalise the accountabilities and responsibilities of a lead agency for a technical sector. At the country level, the Representative of the Cluster lead agency is accountable to the Humanitarian Coordinator. This accountability is the primary difference between a sector and a cluster. In countries where the Government has the responsibility for coordination, we often refer to sector leads rather than cluster leads.

Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination (UN-CMCoord) is the dialogue and interaction between civilian and military actors in humanitarian emergencies that is necessary to protect and promote humanitarian principles, avoid competition, minimize inconsistency and, when appropriate, pursue common goals. The key coordination elements in natural disasters and complex emergencies are information sharing, task division and planning. The scope and modus operandi of these key elements will change with the context and with the focus of the five main UN-CMCoord tasks:

1. Establish and sustain dialogue with military forces;
2. Determine a mechanism for information exchange and humanitarian action with military forces and other armed groups;
3. Assist in negotiations in critical areas of humanitarian-military interaction;
4. Support development and dissemination of context-specific guidance for the interaction of the humanitarian community with the military; and
5. Monitor the activity of military forces and ensure they have a positive impact on humanitarian communities.

Where required, a Government led civil-military coordination arrangement may be established. The use of foreign and/or national militaries to support humanitarian operations is an option to complement existing relief mechanisms.

UN-CMCoord is a central component of many responses in Asia and the Pacific because national militaries are often mandated as first responders and standing arrangements for military-military support for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) are prevalent. When the scale of the disaster exceeds national capacity, the affected state, in consultation with the humanitarian community, may determine a need for support from foreign military assets. In such instances, a predictable platform for coordination between civilian and military actors is required.

It is the responsibility of the HC to identify a coherent and consistent humanitarian approach to civil-military interaction and the use of FMA to support humanitarian priorities. While military assets remain under military control, the operation must maintain a civilian character under the overall authority of the responsible humanitarian organization. This does not however infer any civilian command and control status over military assets.

HOW DOES UN-CMCOORD SUPPORT GOVERNMENTS?

UN-CMCoord platforms are established and led by affected Governments and supported by OCHA as well as other humanitarian organisations with specific UN-CMCoord responsibilities, such as the World Food Programme (WFP).

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is part of the UN Secretariat and is responsible for providing institutional support to the ERC at the global-level and to UN RCs and HCs at the country-level. OCHA coordinates humanitarian action, advocates for the rights of people in need, develops humanitarian policy and analysis, manages humanitarian information systems and oversees humanitarian pooled funds. OCHA is headquartered in Geneva and New York with a strong presence at the regional-level in Asia and the Pacific.

OCHA Regional Office in Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) is located in Bangkok, Thailand. It supports 27 countries in South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific,[6] and augments the OCHA Office for the Pacific Islands when required. **OCHA Office for the Pacific Islands (OP)** is based in Suva, Fiji. It supports 14 Pacific Island countries[7] under the leadership of two UN RCs in Fiji and Samoa. In addition, it supports the Pacific Humanitarian Team.

OCHA also maintains **Country Offices** in Afghanistan, Myanmar, Pakistan and the Philippines, providing support to the Humanitarian Coordinators and the local HCTs. **Humanitarian Advisory Teams (HATs)** are small OCHA presences based at the country-level but functionally part of the regional office. They support the RCs or RC/HCs. ROAP has HATs in Indonesia, Japan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

HOW DOES OCHA WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

UN RCs and HCs are a Government's first point of contact with the international humanitarian system. OCHA typically supports UN RCs through its regional offices and HCs through a country office or, in some cases, through a HAT. Increasingly, OCHA also works directly with relevant Government counterparts, particularly NDMOs, to provide support to Government-led emergency coordination, preparedness activities, and/or capacity building. OCHA also supports regional organizations that have humanitarian mandates.

ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) was established in November 2011 and is responsible for the operational coordination of all activities envisaged under the AADMER. In harmony with One ASEAN One Response, the AHA Centre facilitates cooperation and coordination among the ASEAN Member States and works with a diverse range of ASEAN bodies. The AHA Centre also works with different partners and stakeholders, including the dialogue, sectoral and development partners of ASEAN, UN, and RCRC Movement, international organizations, civil society, youth, private sector, academia and research institutions, and the media. To

---

6 Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, DPR Korea, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

7 Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and Tokelau.

increase engagement with civil society, the ACDM and the AHA Centre work closely with the **AADMER Partnership Group (APG)**, an inter-agency partnership framework between ASEAN and seven major international NGOs.[8] Together, they promote a people-centred approach to implementing AADMER.

The AHA Centre offers a range of tools and services, including trainings and capacity building of ASEAN NDMOs and deployment of emergency response teams. The AHA Centre has a governing board that is composed of representatives of the 10 ASEAN Member States' NDMOs and the ASEAN Secretariat. The AHA Centre is located in Jakarta, Indonesia.

HOW DOES THE AHA CENTRE WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

As the primary regional coordinating agency in disaster management, the AHA Centre is the first point of contact for ASEAN Member States in the event of a disaster. The AHA Centre's Executive Director will establish a coordination line with the Secretary-General of ASEAN when his/her role as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator (SG-AHAC) is activated in the event of large-scale disasters or pandemics.

SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC) was established after the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) adopted the SAARC Comprehensive Framework on Disaster Management in 2006. The SDMC's mandate is to establish and strengthen the South Asia regional disaster management system as a tool to reduce risks and improve response and recovery. SDMC functions under the auspices of the SAARC NDRRM treaty to improve and maintain regional standby arrangements, among other cooperative mechanisms, for disaster relief and emergency response. SDMC is located at the SAARC secretariat in Gujarat, India. The Centre holds regular trainings for delegates from SAARC Member States.

HOW DOES SDMC WORK WITH GOVERNMENTS?

The SDMC works through national focal points of member countries and with ministries, departments and associations within Governments.

REMEMBER

The coordination mechanisms described here are more effective if arrangements for them are made before a disaster strikes, and even if they are only activated when required. Therefore, Governments are encouraged to contact potential partners before an emergency.

---

8   Participating NGOs include Global Movement for Children, Help Age, Mercy Malaysia, Oxfam, Plan International, Save the Children and World Vision.

V.

TOOLS AND SERVICES

V. TOOLS AND SERVICES

This section describes some of the most important international tools and services available for disaster response in Asia and the Pacific.

As previously explained, the primary responders in any emergency are disaster-affected communities and their Governments. International tools and services are only activated when disaster response needs exceed national capacities and an affected Government requests and/or accepts international assistance. There are also technical services that can be triggered to support national Governments and international organizations in their response. For the purposes of the Guide, technical services include everything from pre-positioned supplies to communications technology packages to emergency surge rosters. This section covers international tools and services under the following areas:

A. TECHNICAL TEAMS

1. Bilateral
2. Intergovernmental
3. RCRC Movement

B. RELIEF ASSETS AND STOCKPILES

1. International
2. Regional

C. STANDBY AND SURGE ROSTERS

1. Inter-agency
2. Non-governmental organization
3. Private sector

D. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

1. Information Management Services and Products
2. Humanitarian Websites
3. Satellite Imagery and Mapping Capacities
4. Assessment Tools

E. EMERGENCY RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS

1. Legal Preparedness
2. Emergency Response Preparedness Planning

F. HUMANITARIAN FINANCING MECHANISMS

1. International Financing Mechanisms
2. Regional Financing Mechanisms
3. Strategic Planning Tools

<div style="background:#1a6ab5;color:white;padding:1em;">

HOW TO READ THIS SECTION

There is a short description of each tool and service, followed by two call outs:

WHO IS IT FOR? HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

</div>

A. TECHNICAL TEAMS

A range of international technical teams can be mobilized within hours of a disaster to support a Government's relief efforts. Described here are the purpose, composition and activation modalities of bilateral, intergovernmental and RCRC Movement technical teams. These teams are generally deployed in large and sometimes medium-scale disasters. They exist in addition to the many sector-specific technical teams deployed by Governments, clusters, and other individual agencies and are designed to complement their work.

1. BILATERAL

a. Urban Search and Rescue Teams (USAR)
b. Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs)
c. Bilateral technical response teams

2. INTERGOVERNMENTAL

a. UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC)
b. UN Environment/OCHA Joint Unit (JEU)
c. ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ERAT)

3. RCRC MOVEMENT

a. Regional Disaster Response Teams (RDRT)
b. Field Assessment and Coordination Teams (FACT)
c. Emergency Response Units (ERU)

1. BILATERAL

Urban Search and Rescue Teams (USAR) are composed of trained experts who provide rescue and rescue assistance in an emergency such as earthquakes or structural collapse. USAR teams that deploy internationally generally comprise expert personnel, specialized equipment and search dogs. They can be operational within 24 to 48 hours of a disaster. USAR teams are offered and received bilaterally and/or with coordination support from the OCHA-managed International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG). The advantage of working with INSARAG to receive international USAR teams is that their precise capacities and capabilities are specified through an INSARAG External Classification (IEC) system and the teams work according to internationally-agreed standards and modalities.

Training in the INSARAG Guidelines and Methodology provides technical expertise in international USAR response according to the following phases: preparedness, mobilization, operations, demobilization and post-mission. INSARAG training is designed so that in an emergency, USAR teams share internationally accepted procedures and systems for sustained cooperation.

In addition to engagement with the INSARAG Guidelines, INSARAG member countries with USAR teams deploying internationally are encouraged to apply for IEC. The IEC is an independent, peer-review of international USAR teams that have been endorsed by INSARAG[1]. The IEC classifies teams as "Medium" or "Heavy" to ensure that only qualified and appropriate USAR resources are deployed in an emergency.[2] In Asia-Pacific, there are currently eight USAR teams classified by INSARAG as heavy. There are five more whose classification is currently in progress (Figure 13).

USAR Coordination Cell (UCC) is part of the On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC), a common platform for the coordination of international response activities (See page 65 for more details). The UCC uses the INSARAG methodology to coordinate international USAR teams in support of and in cooperation with the national authorities.

WHO IS IT FOR?

USAR teams support the search-and-rescue efforts of national Governments, particularly in urban settings where there are collapsed structures. INSARAG training is available to any Government or organization with a stake in USAR. USAR Coordination Cell training supports Government-led coordination of deploying USAR teams in a response.

---

1 It should be noted that IEC Classification is a multi-year process and there is a waitlist to become certified. IEC teams are expected to undergo reclassification every five years.

2 "Light" USAR teams are also very important due to their speed and agility in reaching disaster-affected communities, but they are primarily designed for deployment at the national level.

Figure 13. INSARAG-Classified USAR Teams in Asia-Pacific
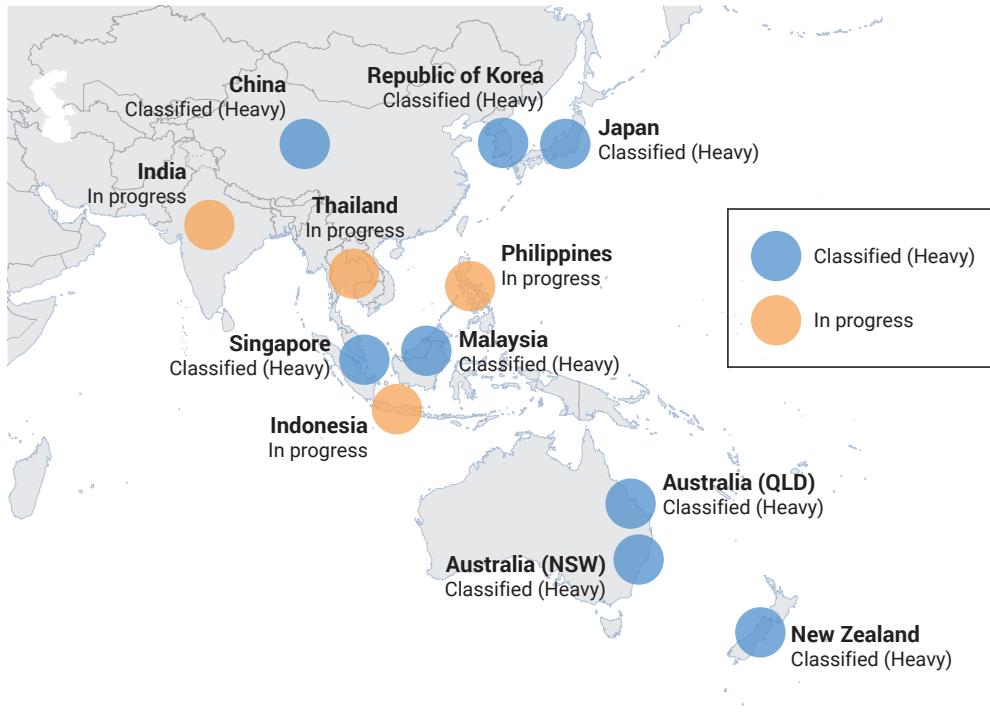
MEDIUM AND HEAVY USAR TEAMS

INSARAG classifies USAR teams into three categories: light, medium, and heavy.

1. **Light USAR teams** have the operational capability to assist with surface search and rescue in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. Light USAR teams are not normally recommended for international deployment.

2. **Medium USAR teams** have the operational capability to conduct technical search and rescue operations in structural-collapse incidents. Medium USAR teams are required to be able to search for trapped people. International Medium USAR teams travelling to an affected country should be operational in the affected country within 32 hours of when the disaster is posted on the Virtual OSOCC. A medium team must be adequately staffed to allow for 24-hour operations at one site for up to seven days.

3. **Heavy USAR teams** have the operational capability for difficult and technical search-and-rescue operations. Heavy USAR teams are required to be able to search for trapped people and use canine and technical systems. They are also required to provide international assistance in disasters resulting in the collapse of multiple structures, typically in urban settings, when national response capacity has either been overwhelmed or does not have the required capability. International heavy USAR teams travelling to an affected country should be operational in the affected country within 48 hours of when the disaster is posted on the Virtual OSOCC. A heavy team must be adequately resourced to allow for 24-hour operations at two separate sites for up to 10 days.

Source: INSARAG Guidelines.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

A Government seeking assistance in activating international USAR teams through INSARAG can do so through a pre-identified INSARAG National Focal Point or directly through the INSARAG secretariat at insarag@un.org. Countries interested in joining the INSARAG network or participating in INSARAG or UCC training can contact the INSARAG secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland at insarag@un.org. OCHA-ROAP is also a liaison between countries in Asia and the Pacific and INSARAG, and it can be contacted at ocha-roap@un.org. Account access to the Virtual OSOCC can be requested at vosocc.unocha.org (See page 65 for more details on Virtual OSOCC)

Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) are groups of health professionals providing direct clinical care to populations affected by outbreaks and emergencies. EMTs are deployed to augment a strained or overwhelmed local health system. EMT's include governmental (both civilian and military) and non-governmental teams and can be comprised of both national and international staff. EMTs are an important part of the global health emergency workforce and should provide a predictable, timely and self-sufficient clinical response to assist member states during emergencies, particularly disasters and outbreaks.

The WHO EMT Initiative assists organizations and member states to build capacity and strengthen health systems by coordinating the deployment of quality assured medical teams in emergencies. The WHO EMT initiative also supports Governments in building their own national EMTs. These can be deployed when needed and can achieve international classification for response in neighbouring countries.

WHO has developed a global classification system to 'quality assure' EMTs through peer review. There is also a global list of all EMTs that meet the WHO EMT minimum standards for deployment and who provide quality assured, clinical capacity to affected populations. This allows a country affected by a disaster or other emergency to call on classified and quality assured EMTs, ideally from their neighbours within the region. There are currently five classified governmental EMT teams in the Asia-Pacific region. There are an additional 12 NGO or governmental EMT teams whose classification is in progress (Figure 14).

EMT Coordination Cells (EMTCC) help national Ministries of Health coordinate the tasking, management and reporting of national and international EMTs. They are part of the OSOCC and are usually housed in the case management pillar of existing Ministry of Health emergency operations centres.

Figure 14. Internationally Deployable Emergency Medical Teams in Asia-Pacific
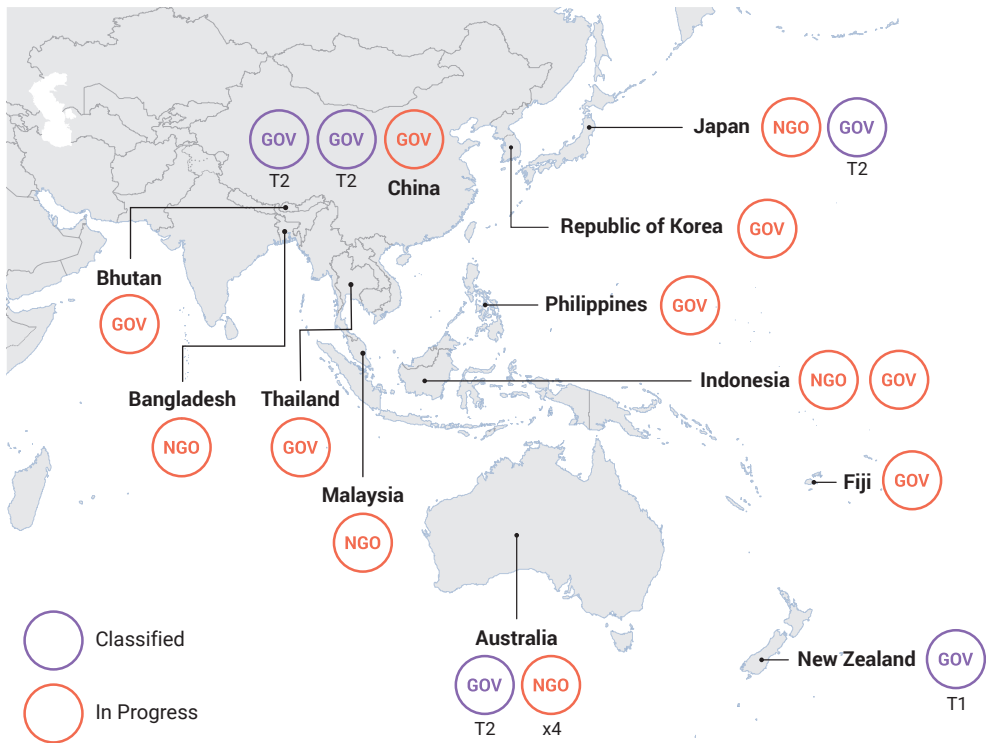
TYPE	DESCRIPTION	CAPACITY
1 Mobile	Mobile outpatient teams. Remote area access teams for the smallest communities	>50 outpatients a day
1 Fixed	Outpatient facilities +/- tented structure	>100 outpatients a day
2	Inpatient facilities with surgery	>100 outpatients and 20 inpatients, 7 major or 15 surgeries daily
3	Referral level care, inpatient facilities, surgery and high dependency	>100 outpatients and 40 inpatients, including 4-6 intensive care beds, 15 major or 30 surgeries daily
SPEC	Teams that can join national facilities or EMTs to provide supplementary specialist care services	Any direct patient care related service can be termed a specialist cell EMT when given in emergency response by international providers/clinicians

WHO IS IT FOR?

EMTs support Governments and people affected by disasters and public health emergencies by ensuring a predictable and timely response from well-trained and self-sufficient teams. National EMT training is available to any Government or organization that would like to develop EMTs.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

A Government interested in activating international EMT teams can do so through the WHO EMT secretariat or through the EMT coordination pages within the Virtual OSOCC. Countries that want to register an EMT should submit an expression of interest to join the WHO Global EMT register at EMTeams@who.int.
For more information, visit extranet.who.int/emt/page/home

Bilateral technical response teams are emergency teams deployed by assisting Governments to make an initial assessment of the needs of the affected Government, UN agencies, the RCRC Movement or NGOs. Some key bilateral technical response teams active in Asia and the Pacific include the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), the United Kingdom Department for International Development's (DFID) Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department (CHASE), Japan International Cooperation Agency's (JICA) Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) Teams, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations' (ECHO) Civil Protection Team and Rapid Response Team.

WHO IS IT FOR?

The majority of these bilateral technical response teams are designed to support the assisting Government in making a decision on what type of support to provide during an emergency response. Some, such as the JDR team, also provide search and rescue, medical and other technical support.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

More information on these bilateral technical response teams can be attained from the embassies of the respective countries.

2. INTERGOVERNMENTAL

UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) teams are standby teams of specially-trained international disaster management professionals from UN Member States, UN agencies and other disaster response organizations that can be deployed within 12 to 48 hours of a disaster. The primary elements of the UNDAC mandate are assessment, coordination and information management. Specialized technical assistance can also be provided (e.g. environmental emergency management). An UNDAC team normally stays in the affected area for the initial response phase, which can be up to three weeks.

An UNDAC team establishes and manages several coordination mechanisms that support response coordination:

1.   **On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC)** provides a common platform for the coordination of international response efforts and services. It is simultaneously a place and a methodology, similar to a national Government's Emergency Operations Centre, but adapted in line with its function within the international humanitarian system. There is an online OSOCC Awareness course that offers a basic understanding of the functioning and management of an OSOCC and explains the purpose, roles, structure, principles and functions of the OSOCC system. This can be accessed through the Virtual OSOCC platform.

2.   **The Reception and Departure Centre (RDC)** is part of the On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC). The RDC focuses on registering incoming teams, particularly USAR and EMT, and providing basic information about the situation, the operations of national and international responders, and logistical arrangements.

3.   **Virtual On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (VOSOCC)** is a global online network and information portal that facilitates data exchange between disaster responders and affected counties before, during and after sudden-onset disasters. VOSOCC can be used to discover if a Government has requested search-and-rescue and/or medical support, coordinate the offers of EMT and USAR teams, share pre-arrival information, and track the arrival and position of teams.

UNDAC training is offered via two courses: the UNDAC Induction Course and the UNDAC Refresher Course. The Induction Course is a two-week training that gives participants applicable knowledge about UNDAC's core activities: assessment, coordination and information management. The Refresher Course is a four to five-day training course that UNDAC roster participants are required to take every two years to maintain these skill levels. UNDAC training is available to representatives of UNDAC and UNDAC participating countries. Representatives are generally from Government entities, OCHA and UN agencies,

but they can also be from NGOs. Once the course is completed, participants are eligible to be added to the UNDAC emergency response roster. UNDAC roster participants are expected to be available at least two to three times a year for emergency missions.

UNDAC can evaluate and recommend ways to strengthen national response preparedness, including policies and legislation. The missions are generally conducted over two weeks. The UNDAC team then periodically reviews the progress made implementing the recommendations.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Managed by OCHA, UNDAC teams are deployed to support crisis-affected Governments, the RC/HC and the Humanitarian Country team (HCT). An UNDAC team's deployment is free of charge. In Asia-Pacific, there have been 83 UNDAC deployment missions in 29 countries since 1993 (Figure 15).

UNDAC TECHNICAL PARTNERSHIPS

UNDAC teams work with a number of technical NGOs and other partners to ensure rapid deployment and self-sufficiency. Examples include UNDAC partnerships with Télécoms Sans Frontières for telecommunications, with MapAction for on-site mapping services, with DHL for airport logistics and with UNOSAT for satellite imagery.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

An UNDAC team is deployed at the request of an affected Government, the UN RC or the HC. Team members are funded through pre-arranged agreements with UNDAC member agencies and Governments. An UNDAC team for a response or a preparedness mission can be requested through OCHA Geneva at +41 22 917 1600, undac_alert@un.org, or through OCHA-ROAP at +66 2288 2611 or at ocha-roap@un.org. UNDAC training or more information on the OSOCC can be accessed through OCHA Field Coordination Support Services (OCHA-FCSS) at ocha-fcss@un.org or through the OCHA-ROAP office at ocha-roap@un.org.

UN Environment/OCHA Joint Unit (JEU) is the UN mechanism used to mobilize and coordinate emergency assistance to countries affected by environmental emergencies and humanitarian crises with significant environmental impact. JEU draws on the resources and knowledge of over 15 different networks and partnerships, enabling close engagement with UN agencies, programmes and affiliated organizations, as well as Member States and regional organizations.

Depending on the nature of the incident (i.e. type of hazard/accident and impact, and/or type of substance involved), the JEU will endeavour to provide the relevant expertise. The expert(s) may be deployed independently or as a part of an UNDAC mission to assess the incident, perform sampling, and, if possible, analyse the samples in-country. Upon completion of the assessment, the expert(s) will give emergency advice on how to contain the impact of the incident and what urgent mitigation actions need to be taken. In cases where special technical expertise and/or equipment are needed to manage the incident and these capacities are not available in the affected country, the JEU can facilitate the mobilization of such technical resources.

The JEU-managed **Environmental Emergencies Centre (EEC)** provides training that offers an overview of the environmental emergency response process and introduces tools for assessing environmental risks, contingency planning and preparing for emergencies at the local level. The EEC offers free online learning tools, classroom trainings and workshops related to the environment. Topics include disaster waste management, rapid environmental assessments, industrial accidents, and the environment in humanitarian action and readiness for response. EEC introductory and advanced training is for staff of Governments, UN organizations, public and private sector entities as well as any other environmental and humanitarian actors. The EEC provides a free online learning platform at www.eecentre.org/Training. The Centre can also arrange face-to-face trainings and workshops.

The **Environmental Experts Hub (EE Hub)** provides practical guidance to experts deploying on environmental emergency preparedness and response missions through the JEU. All the necessary information, guidance, tools and training materials in preparation for deployment can be found on its website. Through the EE Hub, it is possible to join JEU's Community of Practice, an informal platform where experts can learn, share and keep in touch with the JEU and other environmental experts around the world. The EE Hub can be accessed online through the EEC link: eecentre.org/eehub

WHO IS IT FOR?

The JEU is mandated to support Member States facing emergencies that have severely impacted the environment.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Through OCHA's Duty System, the JEU is available 24/7 to mobilize assistance for those Member States facing emergencies. Upon alert of an incident or request for support on disaster preparedness, the JEU will advise on immediate actions and, if necessary, forward a request for assistance to its network of partners. Enquiries can be made at ochaunep@un.org or through OCHA-ROAP at ocha-roap@un.org.

Figure 15. UNDAC Deployments in Asia-Pacific (1993-2017)

Mongolia (2)

Afghanistan
4

Bhutan (1)
RO Korea (1)

Nepal
6   China
Japan (1)

3   Myanmar
3

Pakistan
India
Lao PDR (2)

3
5   3

Bangladesh
Viet Nam (1)
Philippines

Sri Lanka
9
Federated States of Micronesia

Maldives (1)
3
3   Marshall Islands (1)

Thailand (1)
Cambodia (2)

Papua New Guinea

Indonesia
9
5   Solomon Islands (2)
Tokelau (1)

Timor Leste (1)
Samoa (1)

Vanuatu
4

Fiji (2)
3

Cook Islands

Key Stats

🧍**83**
missions

📍 **29**
countries

Number of Deployments by Disaster Type (1993-2017)

Disaster Type		Count
Earthquake/ Tsunami	〰️	24
Typhoon/Cyclone	🌀	23
Flood/Landslides	🏔️	16
Preparedness	☑️	11
Drought/Forest Fire	🌿	6
Complex Emergency	✳️	2
Environmental	🤲	1
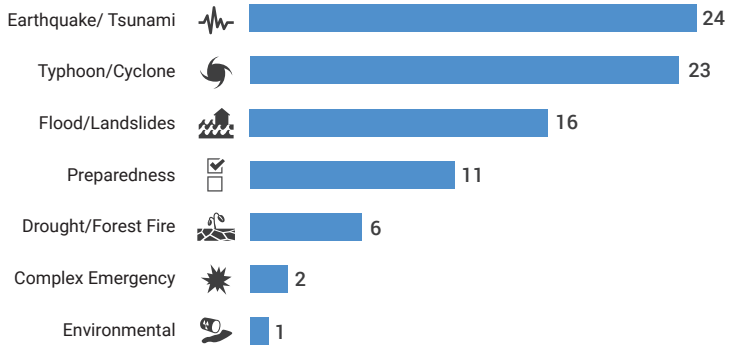
ASEAN Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ERAT) members are trained and rapidly deployable (within 24 hours) experts in emergency assessments that are available for disasters in ASEAN countries. Since 2008, 85 ERAT have been deployed for 21 missions in the Asia-Pacific region (see Figure 16). The purpose of ERAT is to assist NDMOs in the earliest phase of an emergency in a variety of areas, including (1) conducting rapid assessments; (2) estimating the scale, severity and impact of the disaster through a damage assessment and needs analysis; (3) gathering information and reporting on the immediate needs of affected people; and (4) coordinating with the AHA Centre to mobilize and deploy regional disaster management assets, and humanitarian goods and assistance to the disaster-affected areas.

ERAT team establishes a **Joint Operations and Coordination Centre of ASEAN (JOCCA)** as an on-site coordination system to enhance ASEAN's collective response during large-scale disaster response in the ASEAN region and support the Government of the affected Member State. The JOCCA falls under the coordination and leadership of the affected Member States' NDMO and, whenever possible, is co-located with the NDMO. The JOCCA has three primary objectives: (1) to support the NDMO to establish an on-site system for receiving and coordinating incoming relief assistance from ASEAN Member States; (2) to establish a physical space as a single point of service for response entities from ASEAN Member States, civil society organizations, the private sector and other ASEAN responders; and (3) to establish a coordination platform at the field level with relevant United Nations agencies and other international organizations. The JOCCA primarily focuses on facilitating international assistance from the ASEAN region.

ERAT members are trained NDMOs or staff of related ministries, but they are also partners and stakeholders from within the 10 ASEAN Member States. This enables stronger collaboration with the affected ASEAN Member States' Government and communities.

The ERAT induction course trains disaster managers from ASEAN Member States on how to assist affected Governments and the AHA Centre in meeting regional and/or international needs for coordination, and for early and quality information during the initial phase of a sudden-onset emergency. ERAT induction courses are conducted over nine days of classroom sessions and simulation exercises. The induction course focuses on assessment, coordination, information management and equipment use within the AADMER operational framework. ERAT induction courses, with support from OCHA, have also covered UNDAC methodologies.

CASE STUDY 4: THE ASEAN ERAT TRANSFORMATION PLAN

In order to address gaps identified in the response to Typhoon Haiyan (2013) in the Philippines, ASEAN is introducing three different levels of ERAT training and team membership. These are:

- **Level One (In-country Team)**: The aim of this level is to ensure that there are sufficient numbers of ERAT members trained at the country-level. To be qualified as Level 1, candidates have to go through the basic ERAT Induction Course.

- **Level Two (Regional Team)**: Level One roster members who attain certain standards will be given further training to become specialists or experts in specific sectors, such as humanitarian logistics, rapid assessment/early recovery, information management etc. Level 2 certified members will be part of the regionally-deployable team.

- **Level Three (Leadership)**: Members from Level 2 will receive additional training and experience from deployment to either simulation exercises or actual disasters. Level 3 members must be certified as UNDAC members.

WHO IS IT FOR?

ERAT members are deployed to support disaster-affected ASEAN Member States. ERAT induction courses are available to disaster experts from ASEAN countries, with participants nominated by ACDM Focal Points. ERAT experts comprise representatives from NDMOs, health ministries, fire and rescue services, as well as partner organizations such as ASEAN's youth organization, Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and civil society.
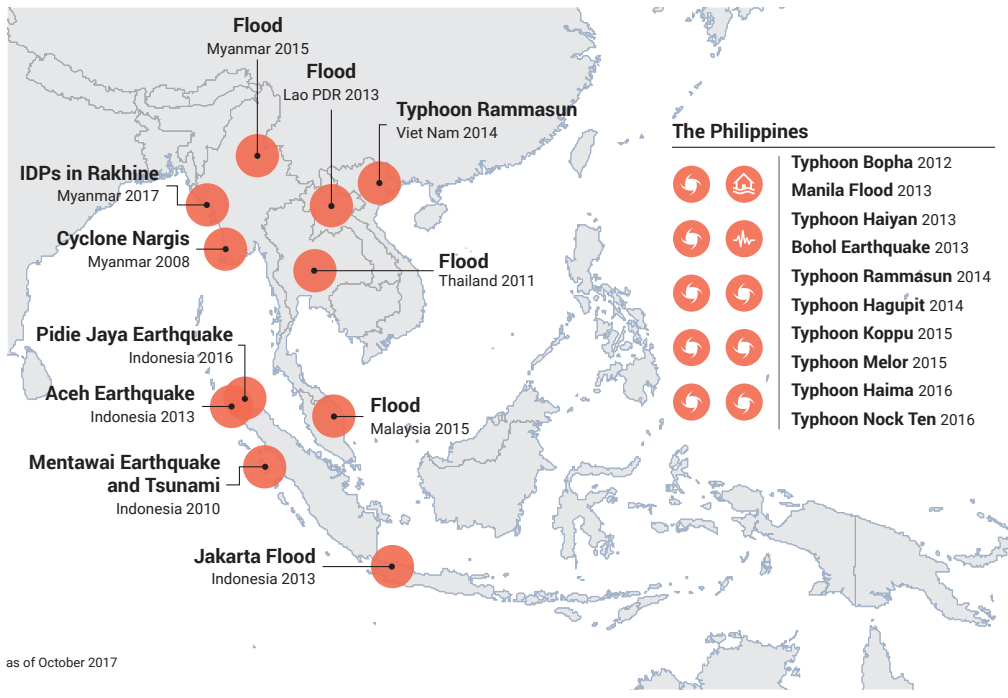
HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Deployment of ERAT is free of charge. ERAT deployment can be requested from the AHA Centre at operationroom@ahacentre.org or at +62 21 210 12278. Further information is available from the AHA Centre website at ahacentre.org.

Figure 16. ERAT Deployments in Asia-Pacific (2008-2017)

85   **21**   Over 85 ERAT members have deployed on 21 missions in Asia-Pacific since 2008.

Flood
Myanmar 2015

Flood
Lao PDR 2013

Typhoon Rammasun
Viet Nam 2014

IDPs in Rakhine
Myanmar 2017

Cyclone Nargis
Myanmar 2008

Flood
Thailand 2011

Pidie Jaya Earthquake
Indonesia 2016

Aceh Earthquake
Indonesia 2013

Flood
Malaysia 2015

**Mentawai Earthquake
and Tsunami**
Indonesia 2010

Jakarta Flood
Indonesia 2013

The Philippines

Typhoon Bopha 2012
Manila Flood 2013
Typhoon Haiyan 2013
Bohol Earthquake 2013
Typhoon Rammasun 2014
Typhoon Hagupit 2014
Typhoon Koppu 2015
Typhoon Melor 2015
Typhoon Haima 2016
Typhoon Nock Ten 2016

as of October 2017

3. RCRC MOVEMENT

Regional Disaster Response Teams (RDRTs) are entirely staffed by members of the National Societies from a particular region. The aim of the RDRTs is to actively build regional capacities in disaster management. An RDRT team is composed of National Society volunteers or staff who are usually members of their own national response teams. They are made up of a core group of people with cross-sectoral expertise, such as health, logistics, water and sanitation, as well as generalist relief workers. They are trained to work as a team and to bring assistance to National Societies in neighbouring countries.

Field Assessment Coordination Teams (FACT) are rapidly deployable teams of disaster assessment managers who support National Societies and IFRC field offices. FACT members have technical expertise in a variety of specializations, including relief, logistics, health, nutrition, public health and epidemiology, psychological support, water and sanitation, and

finance and administration. FACTs are on standby to be deployed anywhere in the world within 12 to 24 hours and for a duration of two to four weeks.

Emergency Response Units (ERUs) are service delivery teams of trained technical specialists mandated to give immediate support to National Societies in disaster-affected countries. They provide specific support or direct services when local facilities are destroyed, overwhelmed or do not exist. ERUs work closely with FACT. The teams use pre-packed sets of standardised equipment and are designed to be self-sufficient for three months. ERUs can be deployed within 24 to 72 hours and can operate for up to four months.

WHO IS IT FOR?

All three technical teams are deployed to support National Societies, IFRC and Governments of disaster-affected countries.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Information about teams can be accessed through National Societies and IFRC www.ifrc.org

MANAGING INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL TEAM DEPLOYMENT

One of the main challenges for disaster-affected Governments in the initial hours and days of an emergency is managing numerous offers of assistance, including offers to deploy USAR, EMT and other technical response teams. In the midst of a crisis, it can be difficult for Governments to evaluate what is and is not required. It can also be difficult to turn down offers of assistance.

Although international USAR and medical teams can be critical to response to larger-scale disasters, national teams are usually responsible for the highest percentage of life-saving activities in an emergency. National teams are locally based, so they can immediately start operating when the disaster strikes. International USAR, medical and other technical teams should only be requested or accepted if national capacity has been overwhelmed.

For this reason, Governments should think ahead about the types of disaster risk they face and evaluate the types of technical assistance they might need, from whom, and in what order of priority. Some teams can be requested to arrive in anticipation of need. For example, if a typhoon is expected to affect a certain area or population, teams can arrive before the storm hinders the ability to do so.

Governments can also request UNDAC or ASEAN ERAT teams to manage the process of accepting or declining international offers of assistance on their behalf. This allows Government officials to focus on delivering assistance to affected people through the national response resources.

B. RELIEF ASSETS AND STOCKPILES

In the Asia-Pacific region there a number of stockpiles of relief items that are maintained and which can be accessed by Governments, UN agencies and NGOs during a disaster.

1. INTERNATIONAL

  a. International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP)

  b. UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD)

2. REGIONAL

  a. Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA)

International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP) is an informal network of governmental organizations that support emergency operations on a daily basis. IHP is a partnership between governmental organizations from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom, and is capable of supporting the United Nations, the European Union and other international organizations.

IHP members provide standardized modules – from small Information Communication Technology (ICT) and Information Management (IM) modules to large base camps and humanitarian compounds – to support humanitarian responders during emergency response. IHP modules have been deployed to most recent major disasters in Asia-Pacific (Figure 17).

WHO IS IT FOR?

IHP is primarily for UN agencies and UNDAC teams, but it can also be requested by the RCRC Movement, regional organizations and Governments.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

IHP can be accessed through the IHP Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland at +41 22 917 1600 or through OCHA-ROAP at ocha-roap@un.org.

UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) network supports the strategic stockpiling efforts of UN agencies, donors, regional institutions and other humanitarian organizations to respond to emergencies. The UNHRD in Asia and the Pacific is located in Subang, Malaysia and is managed by WFP. It forms part of a global network of UNHRD hubs.

There are currently 14 users of the Subang UNHRD facility: ASEAN, AusAID, CARE, Irish Aid, MERCY Malaysia, OCHA, Save the Children, Swiss Red Cross, Shelterbox, UNDP, USAID, WFP, WHO and World Vision International. In addition, UNHRD keeps "white" (i.e. without logo) stocks from suppliers that can be purchased if needed.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Items from the UNHRD network can be requested for dispatch by the UN RC or HC, or by UN agencies, other international organizations, Governments and NGOs that have signed a technical agreement with UNHRD. Partners can also borrow stocks from other stock owners. For more information, contact wfp.subang@wfp.org

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

UNHRD Subang holds strategic reserves of emergency non-food relief goods, including family and hygiene kits, shelter items, IT equipment and other materials designed to assist the emergency response. A UNHRD shipment is normally dispatched within two to three days following a confirmed request. Warehousing, storage, and inspection and handling of relief items are free of charge to users for a period of maximum two years. UNHRD also provides additional services at cost, such as procurement, transport, technical assistance, insurance, repackaging and kitting. UNHRD Subang can be reached at +603-7846 0473 / 0918 / 0917 or through email at UNHRD.customerservice@wfp.org.

Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA) is ASEAN's regional emergency relief stockpile. The DELSA facility is located in Subang, Malaysia and can be used to provide relief items to affected Member States during emergencies. The ASEAN stockpile can also support a disaster-affected NDMO through the provision of pre-fabricated offices, generators and emergency telecommunications. It is managed by the AHA Centre. In addition to the regional stockpile in Subang, the AHA Centre plans to establish satellite warehouses in other ASEAN countries.

WHO IS IT FOR?

ASEAN Member States.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

ASEAN Member States can request relief items from DELSA through the AHA Centre in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Figure 17. Recent IHP Module Support in Asia-Pacific

Country		Disaster	Type
Marshall Islands		2013 Drought	ICT support module
Philippines		2013 Super Typhoon Haiyan	3 OSOCCs; 3 ICT support modules; 3 light base camps; 1 base camp
Vanuatu		2015 Tropical Cyclone Pam	ICT support module
Nepal		2015 Gorkha Earthquake	1 OSOCC; 2 ICT support modules; 3 light base camps
Myanmar		2015 Floods	ICT support module
Bangladesh		2017 Rohingya Refugee Crisis	Coordination hub

REMEMBER

1. Disaster-affected States should develop detailed preparedness plans so that they know the number and types of USAR and other technical response teams that they are likely to accept in a disaster situation.

2. Disaster-affected States are encouraged to work with international technical entities to agree on the composition, terms of reference and period of activation of technical teams.

3. In addition to the teams described here, some global clusters have rapid response teams composed of regionally based experts, such as child protection and Gender-based Violence (GBV) advisors, that can be deployed rapidly.

C. STANDBY AND SURGE ROSTERS

1. INTER-AGENCY

a. OCHA Emergency Surge Mechanisms

b. Inter-Agency Rapid Response Mechanism (IARRM)

c. Cluster-based Surge Mechanisms

d. Technical Expert Surge Mechanisms

2. NGO

e. RedR

f. START Response

3. PRIVATE SECTOR

g. Deutsche Post DHL Group's Disaster Response Team (DRT)

OCHA Emergency Surge Mechanisms are the means by which staff can be rapidly deployed to address critical new or unforeseen humanitarian needs in the field. In OCHA, "surge" means the swift deployment of experienced coordination experts and other specialized humanitarian personnel. Surge capacity is used when there are unforeseen emergencies and disasters, when a crisis deteriorates, or when a force majeure affects an office.

OCHA mobilizes surge staff from regional offices and from surge mechanisms managed by OCHA's **Response Services Section (RSS)** within the **Emergency Response Support Branch (ERSB)** in Geneva, Switzerland. These mechanisms are the **Emergency Response Roster (ERR)** and the **Associates Surge Pool (ASP)**.

The **Emergency Response Roster (ERR)** comprises 45 OCHA staff enrolled in the ERR for deployment, usually for six weeks, at short notice. For a L3 emergency, staff can be deployed for up to three months.

The **Roaming Emergency Surge Officer (RESO)** are senior staff who can deploy at short notice to fill management and senior coordination capability gaps. A RESO may also be called upon to carry out 'reconnaissance' missions in emergencies to a) assist in determining OCHA's footprint, b) advise on additional surge deployment needs, and c) advise on staff continuity planning and associated operational requirements. RESO deployment durations are needs-based and range from a few weeks to several months.

The **Associate Surge Pool (ASP)** covers needs following the departure of surge staff and the arrival of regularly recruited staff. It also addresses critical mid-term staffing gaps. The ASP is composed of experienced humanitarian workers pre-cleared to deploy on a Temporary Appointment. Contracting and deployment take an average of three to four weeks. Deployment duration is usually three to six months with the possibility to extend up to 364 days.

Stand-by Partnerships (SBP) are the agreements OCHA has with 14 partner organizations to provide short-term staffing as 'gratis personnel' to meet emergency human resource gaps. Partners maintain their own rosters of trained and experienced humanitarian professionals,

many of whom have prior OCHA or other humanitarian experience. SBP staff can usually be deployed within four weeks from receipt of a request, for a period of up to six months.

WHO IS IT FOR?

These mechanisms support OCHA's emergency response.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

OCHA offices contact the roster managers through internal channels. More information can be requested from OCHA ROAP at ocha-roap@un.org

Inter-Agency Rapid Response Mechanism (IARRM) is a commitment made by IASC member agencies to maintain a roster of senior and experienced staff that can be deployed in the event of a major emergency. These staff can support the HCT in defining and implementing the humanitarian response. The IARRM is not a stand-alone team, but a composite of the individual rapid response capacities of participating agencies.

When required, the **Emergency Directors Group (EDG)** makes a set of shared recommendations to the IASC Principals concerning the composition of the IARRM deployment based on the context of the response, including rapid/slow onset and protracted situations; the existing capacity on the ground; and related logistical and access considerations. The EDG's recommendations aim to find the most practical deployment solution for the response requirements based on information available at the time. The participating agencies then fill the identified positions through their own surge mechanisms.

WHO IS IT FOR?

IARRM staff work under their individual organizations, and consequently, under the direction of the HC. They help the HCT deliver an effective international response that meets the actual needs of the affected population within the overall framework of the national response.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Deployment of the IARRM is decided by the IASC Principals, who meet within 48 hours of the onset of an L3 emergency, and is based on the recommendation of the IASC Emergency Directors. All IASC members have committed to place emergency roster members on standby at the announcement of the planned meeting of the IASC Principals. More information can be requested from OCHA ROAP at ocha-roap@un.org or found at interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-transformative-agenda.

Cluster-based surge mechanisms provide important technical standby and surge capacities to humanitarian organizations from the onset of an emergency. They are managed by some cluster lead agencies. For example, two WFP-managed common service clusters are the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster and the Logistics Cluster.

The **Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)** is a global network of organizations that work together to provide shared communications services in humanitarian emergencies. Within 48 hours of a disaster, the ETC provides vital security communications services, and voice and internet connectivity to assist the humanitarian response. This may include provision of services to affected people when required.

The **Logistics Cluster** response teams provide logistics coordination for humanitarian organizations in an emergency. They ensure appropriate logistics information management and if needed, define a logistics strategy for the response. By coordinating the humanitarian community's access to common logistics services, relief items can reach affected people more efficiently.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Humanitarian organizations can utilize the in-country telecommunications and logistics support offered by the WFP-led global clusters. Representatives from aid organizations interested in participating in ICT or logistics coordination and information sharing can attend local working group meetings.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Information about both clusters is available through the WFP Regional Office at wfp. bangkokk@wfp.org or through cluster websites: Emergency Telecommunications Cluster www.etcluster.org and Logistics cluster www.logcluster.org

Technical Expert Surge Mechanisms managed by the Norwegian Refugee Council's expert deployment capacity, NORCAP, provide personnel with experience, skills, and senior expertise. In total, NORCAP has a pool of more than 1,000 professionals who meet the changing demands of a wide range of partners, contexts and crises.

Since establishing the roster in 1991, NORCAP's main focus has been developing and strengthening crisis response. NORCAP provides a range of expertise. These include protection, coordination, education, health and nutrition, communication with affected populations, camp management and resilience. NORCAP, in cooperation with partners, covers the following thematic areas through specialized projects:

The **Protection Standby Capacity Roster (ProCap)** consists of senior protection specialists who are recruited and deployed by NORCAP to field, regional and global operations, thereby, strengthening the humanitarian protection response. ProCap advisers also train mid-level protection staff from standby partners and UN agencies. ProCap is an inter-agency initiative created in 2005 and led by OCHA.

The **Gender Standby Capacity Roster (GenCap)** deploys senior gender experts who work with multiple agencies simultaneously to enhance their capacity to undertake and promote gender equality programming. GenCap is also a UN inter-agency project led by OCHA.

The **Cash and Markets Capacity Development Roster (CashCap)** deploys specialists to increase the use and effectiveness of cash programming in humanitarian aid. It is governed by a steering committee of UN and NGO members.

The **Assessment Capacities Project (ACAPS)** provides accessible assessment expertise, timely data and analysis to inform decision-making by national Governments and HCTs.

WHO IS IT FOR?

NORCAP, ProCap, GenCap, CashCap and ACAPS experts are usually deployed as a resource for HCTs and in support of the HC. They are often hosted by UNHCR, UNICEF, OHCHR, OCHA and/or other agencies. ACAPS' assessment expertise can also be deployed to support national Governments.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

NORCAP, ProCap, GenCap, CashCap and ACAPS are managed by the Norwegian Refugee Council's (NRC) expert deployment capacity, NORCAP. For more information: www.nrc.no

RedR is an international NGO that provides a roster of skilled professionals who can respond to major global emergencies. These professionals come from standby partnership arrangements with many UN agencies and other front-line relief agencies. During emergencies, these staff can be used to provide additional resources and support to humanitarian response efforts.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Standby rosters enable UN agencies, international NGOs and Governments to access RedR trained experts in a humanitarian crisis.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

For more information visit: www.redr.org To find out more about RedR standby rosters, contact a RedR member organisation directly. RedR member organisations in Asia and the Pacific are RedR Australia, RedR India, RedR Lanka, RedR Malaysia and RedR New Zealand.

START Response is a mechanism managed by the START Network to utilize the collective knowledge and capacities of Start Network members and increase the efficiency of humanitarian responses by leveraging local knowledge, increasing the speed of decision making and reducing administrative costs. Within the START Network's Asia Regional Platform, a regional shared roster called **Go Team Asia** has been established to draw on skills and resources from across the sector. The shared roster provides surge capacity to seven humanitarian INGOs[3] for disaster responses in ten countries[4] in Asia. The roster members are skilled and experienced staff at mid- or senior level who are currently working for any of the seven participating organisations, and who have received an innovative surge training prior to deployment. Skill areas include: Logistics and Supply Chain, Cash Programming, Gender Equality and Inclusion, Child Protection, Age and Disability, Inclusion, Food Security and Livelihoods, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning. Deployment support from this roster is available within 72 hours for four to 12-week deployments.

WHO IS IT FOR?

The Go Team Asia shared roster supports INGO members of the START Network.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

To find out more about START Network and its roster, please contact startresponse@ startnetwork.org or visit startnetwork.org

Deutsche Post DHL Group's Disaster Response Team is a global network of Disaster Response Teams (DRT) consisting of over 400 specially trained volunteers. The role of the DRT is to prevent airports from getting congested as a result of the sudden surge in incoming cargo. They also take charge of the incoming relief and are then responsible for inventorying, categorizing, warehousing, and remitting incoming goods to the respective consignees. The DRT has also committed to setting up an RDC facility at designated points in the country where a natural disaster has occurred. When called up for logistics support, DRTs can be on the ground and operational at a disaster-site airport within 72 hours, depending on the location.

---

3 ActionAid, CARE, Christian Aid, Islamic Relief, Muslim Aid, Plan International, Save the Children.
4 Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Deutsche Post DHL Group's DRTs can be deployed to support local and international NGOs, UN organisations and the affected Governments. These DRTs work primarily at airports designated to receive humanitarian aid.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Deployments are based on bilateral memorandum of understanding (MOU), which facilitate and significantly accelerate any disaster-related deployments to the affected countries. For more information, visit www.dpdhl.com

D. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Managing information following a disaster is a crucial part of any humanitarian response. Strong information management requires agreed processes and trained personnel to collect, analyse and share information about a disaster situation. Affected people, affected Governments, humanitarian organizations and the media are all sources and users of information in an emergency.

Governments have their own mechanisms for sharing and managing information between emergency response-related agencies and ministries. This section explains how the international humanitarian community manages information in an emergency so that Governments better understand how Governments and international organizations can work together and share information.

1. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SERVICES AND PRODUCTS

a. OCHA Information Management Units (IMU)
b. Humanitarian Reporting

2. HUMANITARIAN WEBSITES

a. ReliefWeb
b. HumanitarianResponse.info
c. Financial Tracking Service (FTS)
d. Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX)
e. Humanitarian ID
f. ASEAN Disaster Information Network (ADInet)
g. ASEAN Science-based Disaster Management Platform (ASDMP)

h. South Asian Disaster Knowledge Network (SADKN)

i. Pacific Disaster Net (PDN)

3. SATELLITE IMAGERY AND MAPPING CAPACITIES

a. MapAction

b. iMMAP

c. UNITAR's Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT)

d. UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER)

e. Sentinel Asia

f. International Charter for Space and Major Disasters

4. ASSESSMENT TOOLS

a. Multi-Cluster Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA)

b. Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)

c. KoBo Toolbox

d. Flash Environmental Assessment Tool (FEAT)

1. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SERVICES AND PRODUCTS

OCHA Information Management Unit (OCHA-IMU) provides dedicated information management in countries where there is an ongoing emergency response. This includes technical staff who serve the humanitarian community by developing and promoting common standards that enable data exchange between organizations. They consolidate information to provide an overview of the humanitarian response. They also provide technical support to initiatives, such as needs assessments, and publish information products, such as contacts lists, meeting schedules and maps. The OCHA-IMU works through the Cluster Approach and in close collaboration with information management focal points in Government. To facilitate the exchange of data, an Information Management Working Group is often formed that includes IM staff from OCHA, key Government agencies (NDMO, National Statistics Agency, etc.) and cluster lead agencies. If there is no OCHA in the country, information management support is available through OCHA regional offices.

WHO IS IT FOR?

The OCHA-IMU is for Governments and humanitarian organizations. Information Management capacity in the cluster lead agencies supports cluster members and line ministries.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

OCHA-IMU can be accessed in-country through OCHA and/or by contacting ochareporting@un.org or ocha-roap@un.org

> ### REMEMBER
> Preparedness in information management is critical to its effectiveness in an emergency. Preparedness measures can include: collecting key baseline data; establishing an information management network that includes NDMOs, national statistics offices, national mapping agencies, OCHA and cluster lead agencies; ensuring that information management is addressed in the contingency plan; and developing a full needs-assessment methodology.

Humanitarian Reporting includes several standard products developed and published by OCHA, the RC or RC/HC, and/or the HCT. These allow humanitarian partners to share important information and as a result, support operational decision-making by and among humanitarian partners. The standard products include:

A **Flash Update** is issued within hours of a sudden onset crisis. It is a short summary of whatever information is available and can lead to the production of a Situation Report.

A **Situation Report** is an operational document that provides a snapshot of current needs, response efforts and gaps in an emergency. They can be produced by the RC or OCHA. The RC's Situation Report is primarily used if there is no OCHA presence. Both the OCHA and RC Situation Reports use the same template.

Other information products developed during a response include humanitarian snapshots (infographics that focus on a specific issue or area of the response), humanitarian dashboards that support monitoring of the response, as well as press releases, statements by senior officials and donor briefings, among others.

WHO IS IT FOR?

The audience for humanitarian reporting includes operational humanitarian actors working inside and outside the affected country, as well as donors, Governments, civil-society organizations, the media and the public.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Humanitarian reporting products are publicly accessible on ReliefWeb at www.reliefweb.int. Interested actors may also subscribe to receive Situation Reports issued by OCHA globally.

Figure 18. Information Management Flow

Collection

Data collection can take many forms, from needs assessments, to remote sensing, to a review of baseline data.

Processing

Sufficient time and skilled staff must be allocated for data to be processed. For example, before 200 assessment questionaires can be analysed and used for planning, they must be checked and entered into a database.

Analysis

In an emergency, analysis is usually limited to summarizing information, and prioritizing and testing assumptions. Decision makers require analysis that summarizes a large volume of information and points out key aspects of an emergency situation.

Dissemination

Information needs to be communicated clearly and effectively to a wide audience.

2. HUMANITARIAN WEBSITES

ReliefWeb is the leading humanitarian information source on global crises and disasters. It is a specialized digital service of OCHA, and teams in Bangkok, Nairobi and New York update information around the clock. ReliefWeb's editorial teams monitor and collect information from more than 4,000 key sources, including international and local humanitarian agencies, Governments, think tanks, research institutions and the media. ReliefWeb is also a valuable resource for job listings and training programs.

WHO IS IT FOR?

ReliefWeb provides reliable and timely information to humanitarian workers and enables them to make informed decisions and to plan effective responses.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

ReliefWeb can be accessed on social media networks such as Facebook and Twitter, on mobile applications and its application programming interface (API), and at reliefweb.int

HumanitarianResponse.info is a humanitarian web-based platform that supports inter-cluster coordination and information management of operational data. It is where the in-country response community can share, find, and collaborate on information that informs strategic decisions.

WHO IS IT FOR?

HumanitarianResponse.info is a resource specifically tailored to the needs of persons deployed to respond to humanitarian emergencies.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

HumanitarianResponse.info is publicly accessible at www.humanitarianresponse.info

Financial Tracking Service (FTS) is a global database maintained by OCHA that records humanitarian contributions (cash and in-kind) to emergencies. The FTS is a real-time, searchable database that includes all reported international humanitarian aid, with a special focus on inter-agency humanitarian response plans (HRPs). FTS can only record contributions that are reported to it by donors and recipient entities. Contribution reports are triangulated with reports from recipient agencies to show how contributions are used (i.e. whether they have been committed to a specific HRP, Flash Appeal or other appeal).

WHO IS IT FOR?

FTS is open to all Governments, private donors, funds, recipient agencies and implementing organizations wishing to report financial pledges and contributions for humanitarian action.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Donors, affected Governments and recipient organizations can report contributions to fts@un.org or through an online reporting form available on the FTS website. FTS is publicly accessible at fts.unocha.org

Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX) is an open platform for sharing data. The goal of HDX is to make humanitarian data easy to find and use for analysis. HDX's collection of datasets has been accessed by users in over 200 countries and territories. The HDX is managed by a team within OCHA.

WHO IS IT FOR?

HDX makes data publicly available for humanitarian responders. Data can be in a variety of formats, including Excel spreadsheets and graphic information systems (GIS) compatible formats.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

HDX is publicly accessible at data.humdata.org

Humanitarian ID is an online tool for managing contacts in an emergency. Humanitarian responders sign up to Humanitarian ID then 'check in' to the emergency response allowing responders to find key contacts during a disaster in a specific country.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Humanitarian ID is a tool for humanitarian responders to find each other and coordinate.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Humanitarian ID is publicly available at humanitarian.id. It is also available as a mobile phone app for Android and iOS devices. In highly insecure environments, contacts may only be visible to users who have been verified by the list managers.

ASEAN Disaster Info Network (ADInet) is a disaster web portal and database system for ASEAN managed by the AHA Centre. It offers a consolidated collection of information on disasters in the sub-region. Disaster reports submitted by NDMOs and the general public are verified and updated by AHA Centre. Based on the information collated in ADInet, AHA Centre releases a Weekly Disaster Update and Monthly Disaster Outlook. As a knowledge management repository, AHA Centre's Flash Updates and Situation Updates are available on the relevant disaster page in ADInet.

WHO IS IT FOR?

It is primarily intended for researchers, scientists, disaster management practitioners and policy makers whose work focus on disaster management in ASEAN region. It is publicly accessible.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

ADInet is accessed at adinet.ahacentre.org

ASEAN Science-based Disaster Management Platform (ASDMP) is a web portal and database system developed to provide a platform to connect researchers and scientists with disaster management practitioners and policy makers. This website is an information repository and knowledge outreach platform.

WHO IS IT FOR?

It is primarily intended for researchers, scientists, disaster management practitioners and policy makers whose work focus on disaster management in ASEAN region. It is publicly accessible.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

ASDMP is accessed at asdmp.ahacentre.org/ASDMP/index.do

South Asian Disaster Knowledge Network (SADKN) is a web portal for the sharing of knowledge and information on disaster risk management in South Asia. SADKN is a network of networks, with one regional and eight national portals. It includes all national stakeholders from the SAARC Member States.

WHO IS IT FOR?

SADKN is for SAARC Member States, but it is publicly accessible.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

SADKN is accessed through the SAARC DMC website at www.saarc-sadkn.org

Pacific Disaster Net (PDN) is a disaster web portal and database system for Pacific Island countries. It provides information on governance, risk assessment, early warning and monitoring, disaster risk management and training.

WHO IS IT FOR?

PDN is for Pacific Island countries, but it is publicly accessible.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

PDN is accessed through the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) at info@sopac.org

3. SATELLITE IMAGERY AND MAPPING CAPACITIES

Satellite imagery can be a powerful tool for analysing the effects of a disaster quickly and over a large area. Mapping is an effective means of analysing and sharing information about the effects of an emergency. Many organizations, including OCHA, can map data using satellite imagery.

Map Action is a mapping charity that deploys highly qualified mapping volunteers to support disaster response. Volunteers are usually GIS specialists with data management expertise and/or technical and software specialists. They can mobilize and deploy within the first 72 hours of a response, or they can fulfill specific pieces of work related to data management or mapping. They often deploy as part of an UNDAC team or with Government, regional, INGO or NGO partners.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Mapping services support a humanitarian response. MapAction normally works in close collaboration with OCHA and Government counterparts.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

MapAction support can be requested through OCHA or direct contact at emumford@mapaction.org or info@mapaction.org. For more information: www.mapaction.org.

iMMAP is a mapping organization that provides information management services, including data collection, data analysis, assessments, database management, infographics and mapping, tool development, training, consultation, sector expertise, coordination and change management. iMMAP offers partners the full spectrum of information, knowledge and change management skills linked with thematic knowledge, e.g. food security, health, coordination, development, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian mine action, security, climate change, urban, agriculture, and much more. iMMAP provides additional capacity to both humanitarian and development organizations, helping them to solve operational and strategic challenges. iMMAP also partners with organizations to provide cost-efficient and more effective service delivery and decision-making, which ultimately leads to improved outcomes for populations.

WHO IS IT FOR?

iMMAP provides bilateral and multilateral support to the UN, NGOs and Governments to improve humanitarian information collection, data management and spatial analysis. iMMAP's services are available on a project basis, as both individual activities and on-going collaborations, through iMMAP-implemented projects and through the secondment of information management staff. Since 2012, iMMAP has been an official Standby Partner (SBP) to the United Nations, providing support to multiple UN agencies in multiple countries.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

For iMMAP's services, please contact William Barron, CEO, at wbarron@immap.org and Craig von Hagen, the Regional Director, at cvonhagen@immap.org.

UNITAR's Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT) delivers imagery analysis and satellite solutions to UN and non-UN humanitarian organizations.

WHO IS IT FOR?

UNOSAT is available to UN and non-UN humanitarian organizations and Governments.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

UNOSAT is accessed at www.unitar.org/unosat

UN Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) connects disaster management and space communities, and assists Governments in using space-based information for disaster preparedness.

WHO IS IT FOR?

UN-SPIDER is available to national Governments with space agencies and disaster management agencies in charge of response operations.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

UN-SPIDER is accessed at www.un-spider.org

Sentinel Asia supports disaster management activities by applying GIS technology and space-based information. It is hosted by the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF).

WHO IS IT FOR?

Sentinel Asia is available to national Governments, UN disaster management agencies and regional and international organizations.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Sentinel Asia is accessed at www.aprsaf.org/initiatives/sentinel_asia

International Charter for Space and Major Disasters is a consortium of national space agencies. It provides authorized users with a unified system of space data acquisition and delivery.

WHO IS IT FOR?

The International Charter for Space and Major Disasters is available to authorized users such as representatives of national civil protection, rescue, defence and security bodies as well as the United Nations Office for Outer Space (UN OOSA) and UNITAR/UNOSAT on behalf of UN agencies.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

International Charter for Space and Major Disasters is accessed at disasterscharter.org/web/guest/activating-the-charter

4. ASSESSMENT TOOLS

Multi-Cluster Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) is a methodology carried out by key humanitarian stakeholders during the first two weeks following a sudden-onset disaster. It tests planning assumptions that have been made in the first 72 hours (based on secondary data analysis, for example). At the second or third week of a sudden-onset response, the MIRA provides information on the needs of affected people and the priorities for international support. MIRA is guided by the 2013 IASC Operational Guidance on Coordinated Assessments in Humanitarian Crises.

WHO IS IT FOR?

MIRA is primarily used by HCT to support affected Governments.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Information on MIRA is available in-country through OCHA, the HC or the UN RC.

Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) is a Government-led assessment exercise. A PDNA complements rather than duplicates initial rapid assessments conducted by humanitarian actors. It analyses these assessments to obtain recovery-related data. The **Disaster Recovery Framework (DRF)** is the principal output of the assessment. It is a single consolidated report that provides information on the physical impacts of a disaster; the economic cost of damage and loss; the human impacts as experienced by affected people; and the resulting early and long-term recovery needs and priorities. It provides a basis for the prioritization, design and implementation of a coherent set of recovery programmes.

There are various stages and procedures necessary for a PDNA. In addition to the assessment, a PDNA includes a planning mission, an orientation meeting with all stakeholders, and sectoral training and orientation. The PDNA is supported by UNDP, the European Commission, and the World Bank, as well as other national and international actors.

WHO IS IT FOR?

PDNA is for affected Governments.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Information about PDNA and DRF can be accessed through the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR), UNDP and ECHO.

KoBo Toolbox is a free open-source tool for mobile data collection. It allows users to collect data in the field using electronic devices. KoBo Toolbox supports the full data

collection cycle - form design, data collection and analysis. Most users are people working in humanitarian crises or aid professionals and researchers working in developing countries. Its capacity to support the needs assessments, monitoring and other data collection activities for humanitarian actors in emergencies and difficult field environments continues to improve. The adaptation of KoBo Toolbox for humanitarian use is a joint initiative between OCHA and the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI).

The platform provides a simple and intuitive interface to develop forms, including complex skipping logic, validation, and common humanitarian question formats. The form builder also supports a unique question library feature that enables users to develop and share libraries of validated and standardized questions.

By making the sharing of data, questions and forms easier, users can work more quickly and effectively, and there is a greater adoption of standard indicators and questions, less fragmentation (which occurs if every agency uses a different incompatible system), and improved comparability between data sets. This allows better comparisons across time and across countries, so the entire humanitarian community, including donors, UN agencies and implementing partners benefit.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Humanitarian actors can create free accounts on the dedicated OCHA server. Organizations can also install it on their own servers and directly contribute to its further development.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

To create an account for unlimited use and benefit from professional user support, go to kobo.humanitarianresponse.info

To access the free Online Humanitarian Needs Assessment Training, including Kobo toolbox, go to training.kobotoolbox.org. For more information, visit www.kobotoolbox.org

Flash Environmental Assessment Tool (FEAT) helps to identify existing or potential acute environmental impacts that pose risks for humans, human life-support functions and ecosystems, following sudden-onset natural disasters. FEAT focuses primarily on immediate and acute impacts arising from released hazardous chemicals. It was produced by the UN Environment/OCHA Joint Unit with the support of the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment of the Netherlands.

WHO IS IT FOR?

The FEAT was designed for UNDAC teams, USAR teams, local authorities, disaster management agencies and environmental specialists.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

The FEAT Pocket Guide, including all FEAT-related tools, can be accessed online through the Environmental Emergencies Centre (EEC) at www.eecentre.org/feat

REMEMBER

In addition to the multi-sectoral assessments described here, there are many other cluster-specific and thematic assessment methodologies and tools that can be employed in an emergency.

E. EMERGENCY RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS

The term "readiness planning" refers to policy and legal preparedness, emergency response preparedness and other processes that clarify the roles between humanitarian actors. This section looks at the international and regional tools available for legal and emergency response preparedness.

1. LEGAL PREPAREDNESS

a.   Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance (IDRL Guidelines)

b.   UN Model Customs Facilitation Agreement

2. EMERGENCY RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS PLANNING

a.   IASC Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP) Guidance

b.   ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan (AJDRP)

1. LEGAL PREPAREDNESS

Guidelines for the domestic facilitation and regulation of international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance (IDRL Guidelines) are a set of recommendations to Governments on how to prepare their laws and plans for coordinating and facilitating international disaster relief. Such preparedness planning can include the review and development of disaster management laws, immigration laws, customs laws, quarantine procedures, and civil and criminal liability processes.

The Guidelines are complemented by various reference tools developed by the IFRC, including the **IDRL Checklist; the Model Act** for the Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance (Model Act); and an **emergency decree** template.

The **IDRL Checklist** is an easy to use assessment tool that helps a Government to understand what legislation it has and what may be required to strengthen legal preparedness.

The **Model Act** supports national Governments' legal preparedness for disasters. It helps Governments develop legislation that integrates the IDRL Guidelines into domestic law and policy. Implementing the IDRL Guidelines and the Model Act can contribute towards a timely response during a sudden onset disaster or emergency.

The **emergency decree** template can be used by a Government in times of disaster if there is no pre-existing framework in place for facilitating and regulating international disaster assistance.

The **IFRC's Disaster Law Programme (DLP)** also helps integrate the IDRL Guidelines at the national level. The DLP supports RCRC National Societies' work with their respective Governments to develop and apply state-of-the-art disaster-related legislation, policies and procedures, including legal preparedness for international disaster assistance.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Legal preparedness consistent with the IDRL Guidelines and the Model Act are for the Governments of UN Member States.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

The legal-preparedness process is usually initiated by a National Red Cross Red Crescent Society in cooperation with its respective national Government and with support from IFRC. The Model Act is available online through www.ifrc.org/what-we-do. It is also available through National Societies or IFRC.

CASE STUDY 5. IDRL IN ACTION: THE CASES OF INDONESIA, CAMBODIA AND THE COOK ISLANDS

Between 2004 and 2006, IFRC and the **Indonesia** Red Cross Society conducted a series of studies in collaboration with the Government to identify the legal issues that had affected international relief operations in that country. Following intensive consultations involving a wide range of stakeholders, the Government adopted a new law on disaster management in 2007. In 2008, the President promulgated Regulation No.23 on the Participation of International Institutions and Foreign Non-Governmental Institutions in Disaster Management, which draws strongly from the IDRL Guidelines. In December 2010, more detailed and specific guidelines were adopted, titled "The Role of International Organizations and Foreign Nongovernment Organizations during Emergency Response".

Similarly, in 2008, IFRC supported the Government of **Cambodia** and the Cambodia Red Cross Society to undertake an IDRL technical assistance project to analyse the national legal framework for international assistance. Following this review, Cambodia drafted and adopted a new Disaster Management Law in June 2015. The Law, aimed at regulating disaster management in Cambodia, has the three stated goals of:

- Prevention, adaptation and mitigation of disaster risk in the pre-disaster period
- Emergency response during a disaster
- Recovery in the post-disaster period

The law establishes institutions, assigns them legally-binding roles and responsibilities, and helps ensure resources and mechanisms for coordination are allocated amongst different institutions. Currently, this is one of the most comprehensive disaster management laws in the Asia-Pacific region.

Like Indonesia and Cambodia, the IDRL Guidelines have been utilized to bolster disaster management preparedness in the Pacific. Following the completion of an IDRL study in the **Cook Islands**, the Prime Minister raised the importance of the IDRL Guidelines with leaders of Pacific Island States during the 43rd Pacific Island Forum in August 2012. The Forum Communiqué encourages the Pacific Island States to use the IDRL Guidelines to strengthen their national policy and their institutional and legal frameworks in collaboration with their National Red Cross Societies, IFRC, the UN and other relevant partners.

The IDRL Guidelines have had a significant impact across the Asia-Pacific region. Indonesia, New Zealand and the Philippines have adopted new laws, regulations or procedures at the national level with provisions inspired by, or consistent with, the IDRL Guidelines. In Afghanistan, Cambodia, the Cook Islands, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Vanuatu and Viet Nam, legal review processes and/or IDRL studies conducted by IFRC and National Societies have been completed or are underway. For detailed information on the progress of IDRL technical assistance projects in Asia and the Pacific, visit www.ifrc.org

UN Model Customs Facilitation Agreement is a tool available to UN Member States to expedite the import, export and transit of relief consignments and the possessions of relief personnel in a disaster. The UN Model Customs Agreement contains provisions regarding simplified documentation and inspection procedures; temporary or permanent waiving of duties; taxes on imports of relief items and equipment of relief personnel, UN agencies and accredited NGOs; and arrangements for clearance outside official working hours and locations.

WHO IS IT FOR?

A UN Model Customs Agreement is signed between a Government and the UN. Bhutan, Nepal and Thailand are the only countries in Asia and the Pacific that have signed a UN Model Customs Agreement.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Information on procedures for signing the agreement can be accessed through the UN RC or HC, or through OCHA-ROAP at ocha-roap@un.org.

2. EMERGENCY RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS PLANNING

IASC Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP) Guidance enables the international humanitarian system to apply an operational approach to emergency preparedness. The primary objective of the ERP approach is to optimize the speed and volume of critical assistance delivered immediately after the onset of a humanitarian emergency.

The ERP focuses on situations where the scale of the potential emergency requires the concerted action of a number of agencies/organizations. The ERP allows the humanitarian community to quickly state its capacity and the value it can add to national response.

The ERP tool supports:

- **Risk Analysis** by developing a common understanding of disaster or crisis risks and identifying moderate or high risks.

- **Operational Readiness** by establishing a minimum level of multi-hazard preparedness to prepare for both slow and sudden-onset crisis and/or disasters.

- **Strategic Planning** by designing a response strategy based on the available in-country capacity that can deal with the initial phase of an emergency if moderate or high risks are identified. This includes developing contingency plans for specific risks to meet the differentiated needs of an affected population in the first three to four weeks of a humanitarian emergency.

- **Coordination and Partnerships** by outlining how the international humanitarian community can organize itself to support and complement national action.

The **Rapid Response Approach to Disasters in Asia-Pacific (RAPID)** is an Asia-Pacific adaptation of the ERP. It is designed to better support the unique context and challenges in the region, while also ensuring that the approach is flexible enough to be scaled according to specific contexts in line with global guidance.

The RAPID approach is made up of four stages, that are mirrored in preparedness and response; **1. Disaster Impact Model, 2. Needs Analysis, 3. Response Capacity Analysis, and 4. Planning and Advocacy** (Figure 19) The RAPID approach:

- Places national response at the forefront and articulating how the international humanitarian community augments Government preparedness and response.

- Creates linkages between (1) disaster preparedness and response, and (2) the resilience and development agendas, by generating synergy with existing initiatives Governments have committed to, such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

- Engages affected people in response planning, thereby, improving accountability and better supporting local systems.

- Uses country-specific risk profiles and vulnerability data to inform more context specific and appropriate responses in support of national efforts.

WHO IS IT FOR?

The ERP and RAPID approach should be as participatory as possible and should include all those likely to be involved in a response.

The approach should be:
- Led by a Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator
- Managed by a Humanitarian Country Team or equivalent body
- Supported by an inter-cluster/sector coordination group and by the clusters/sectors
- Inclusive of a broad range of responders, including at the sub-national level
- Supportive of the national authorities, who have primary responsibility for affected people.

To the extent possible, national authorities and other national actors should be engaged with or lead the preparedness planning processes so that there is a common understanding of the risks, vulnerabilities and capacities. Moreover, they can ensure that the efforts of the international humanitarian community feed into emergency preparedness planning.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

More information is available at www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/coordination/ preparedness and through OCHA-ROAP at ocha-roap@un.org.

ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan (AJDRP) is a regional preparedness approach that provides a common framework for delivering a timely, at-scale and joint response by mobilizing necessary assets and capacities. The AJDRP clarifies the working arrangements of ASEAN's mechanisms in strengthening engagement with other sectors and stakeholders as part of the overall ASEAN response to a large-scale disaster in the region. The AJDRP also assists ASEAN Member States and other partners to identify standby resources. These assets, experts and other response capacities may come from the private sector, civil society organizations, or military resources, and constitute the **ASEAN Standby Arrangements**.

The **ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX)** is conducted every two years by the ACDM to test and validate ASEAN SASOP and ASEAN's preparedness and readiness in times of disasters. The first ARDEX was held in 2005, and the AHA Centre has co-organized the ARDEX with the host country since 2013. To support planning and conduct of the ARDEX, the AHA Centre has developed an ARDEX Organizer's Handbook and ARDEX Referees Manual. Since the 2016 ARDEX in Brunei Darussalam, the exercise has also tested ASEAN's readiness for collective response under the One ASEAN One Response Declaration.

ASEAN Member States and partners in disaster response, including military forces, the United Nations, NGOs, international organizations, civil society and the private sector participate in the ARDEX.

The **ASEAN Regional Forum Disaster Relief Exercise (ARF DiREx)** is also a large-scale disaster relief exercise that ARF members' civilian and military authorities hold every two years (opposite years to the ARDEX). It promotes the exchange of expertise and practices in disaster management among ARF members.

WHO IS IT FOR?

The AJDRP is developed for specific scenarios in ASEAN Member States at the highest risk of a large-scale disaster. It is intended to facilitate planning among ASEAN Member States and their disaster response partners, including military forces, UN agencies, international NGOs, civil society and private sector, among others. ASEAN – and ARF – partners are also invited to participate in the ARDEX and ARF-DiREx exercises.

Figure 19. RAPID Approach to Emergency Response Preparedness

1

DISASTER IMPACT MODEL

number of people in need and location

2

NEEDS ANALYSIS

community engagement   key immediate needs

3

capacity assessment   modalities   coordination structure

RESPONSE CAPACITY ANALYSIS

4

response plan   monitoring & reporting frameworks

PLANNING AND ADVOCACY

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

AJDRP is accessed at ahacentre.org/files/AJDRP.pdf. For more information, contact the AHA Centre at info@ahacentre.org or operationroom@ahacentre.org.

F. HUMANITARIAN FINANCING MECHANISMS

When a crisis hits, immediate access to funds to begin coordinated inter-agency response planning and humanitarian operations is critical to save lives and alleviate human suffering. This section describes international and regional multilateral financing and strategic planning tools that can be triggered during the immediate phase of an emergency. In Asia and the Pacific, national humanitarian financing mechanisms, bilateral contributions and private donations are central to rapid disaster response.

1. INTERNATIONAL FINANCING MECHANISMS

a.   UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)

b.   Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPF)

c.   OCHA Emergency cash Grant (ECG)

d.   IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)

e.   UN Development Programme (UNDP) TRAC 1.1.3 Category II Resources

f.   Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility

g.   Global Preparedness Partnership (GPP)

2. REGIONAL FINANCING MECHANISMS

a.   ASEAN Disaster Management and Emergency Relief Fund

b.   Asia-Pacific Disaster Response Fund

c.   South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund

3. STRATEGIC PLANNING TOOLS

a.   Flash Appeal

b.   Humanitarian Response Plan

4. INTERNATIONAL FINANCING MECHANISMS

a.   UN Central Emergency Response Fund

b. Country-Based Pooled Funds

c. OCHA Emergency Cash Grant

d. IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund

e. UNDP TRAC 1.1.3 Category II Resources

f. World Bank Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility

g. Global Preparedness Partnership

1. INTERNATIONAL FINANCING MECHANISMS

UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) delivers funding quickly to humanitarian responders and kick-starts life-saving action. The CERF, established in 2006, comprises three components: 1) Rapid Response grants, 2) Underfunded Emergencies grants, and 3) loans.

CERF makes funding available when a sudden-onset emergency begins, when an ongoing crisis suddenly deteriorates or when a response to a slow-onset crisis requires time-critical funding. Rapid Response grants can be approved in as little as 48 hours. For the world's neglected crises, CERF provides support through Underfunded Emergencies grants. These are disbursed twice a year to provide much needed funding for critical life-saving services. The CERF also has a loan facility of US$ 30 million. Loans of up to one year can be made for UN agencies if they can confirm that donor funding is forthcoming.

In recognition of the critical need for larger and more strategic humanitarian finance and CERF's track record of providing life-saving assistance to crisis-affected people, the UN General Assembly has endorsed the call to expand CERF's annual funding target from $450 million to $1 billion.
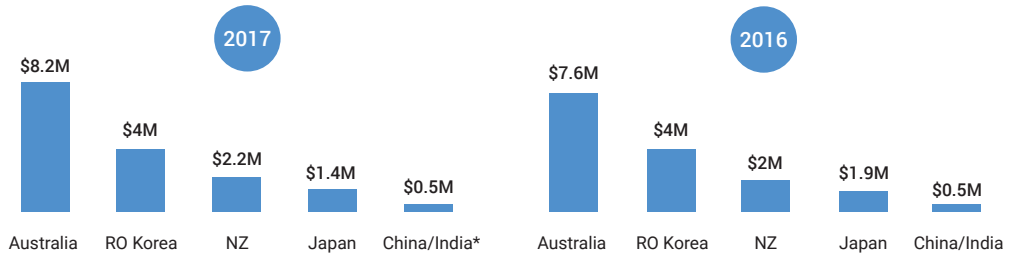
WHO IS IT FOR?

CERF funding is available only to UN agencies, funds and programmes. However, NGOs are important CERF partners and receive CERF funding when they carry out work in partnership with recipient UN organizations. Between 2013 and 2017, countries in the Asia-Pacific region received some US$ 338 million in CERF funding (Figure 21), with major recipient countries in 2016 and 2017 including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Fiji and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (Figure 20).

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

A CERF grant application is coordinated and submitted by the RC or RC/HC on behalf of the country team. After a bilateral agreement is made between the recipient agency(ies) and the CERF secretariat, the allocated funds are disbursed. For more information on CERF, visit cerf.un.org
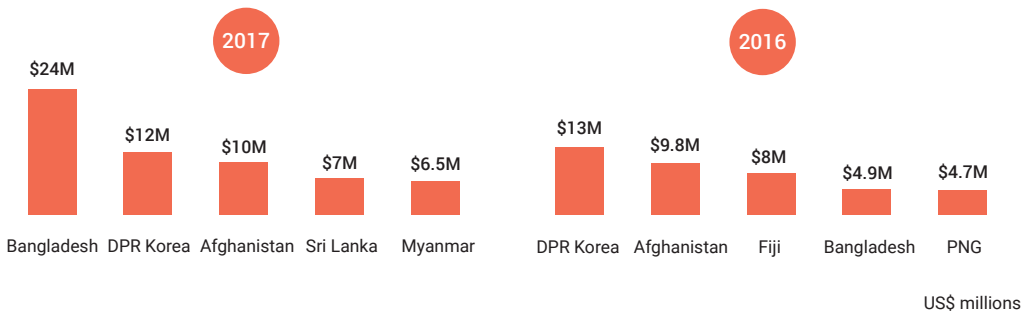
Figure 20. Contributions and Allocations from CERF for Asia-Pacific

Contributors to CERF from Asia-Pacific countries

2017

$8.2M Australia	

$8.2M $4M $2.2M $1.4M $0.5M
Australia RO Korea NZ Japan China/India*

2016

$7.6M $4M $2M $1.9M $0.5M
Australia RO Korea NZ Japan China/India

China and India both contributed the same amount ($500,000) to CERF

Receivers of CERF from Asia-Pacific countries

2017

$24M $12M $10M $7M $6.5M
Bangladesh DPR Korea Afghanistan Sri Lanka Myanmar

2016

$13M $9.8M $8M $4.9M $4.7M
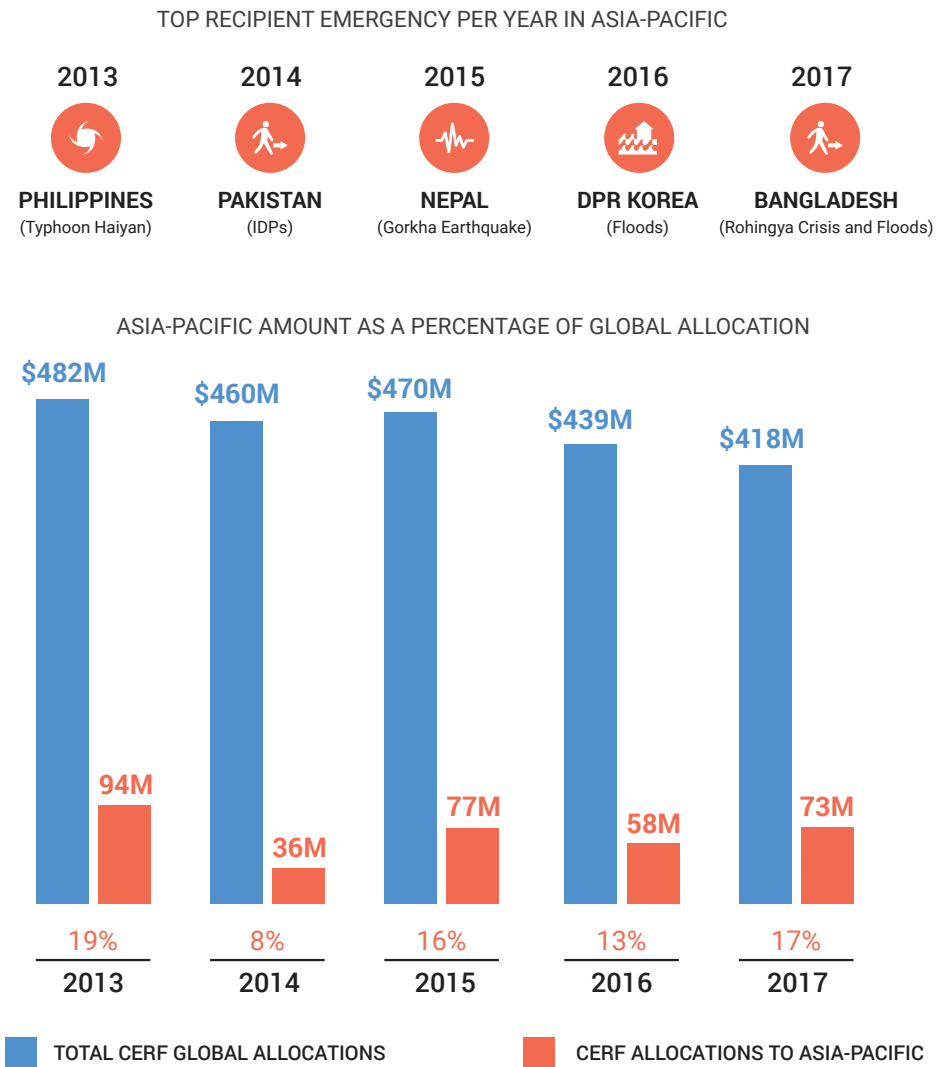DPR Korea Afghanistan Fiji Bangladesh PNG

US$ millions

Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) are established by the UN ERC when a new emergency occurs or when an existing humanitarian situation deteriorates. They are managed locally by the HC in consultation with the humanitarian community. Contributions – mainly from Governments – are collected into single, unearmarked funds to support local humanitarian efforts. Money is allocated through an inclusive and transparent process in support of priorities set out in coordinated Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs). This ensures that funding is available and prioritized at the local level by those closest to people in need.

CBPFs allocate funding based on identified humanitarian needs and priorities at the country-level in line with the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC). To avoid duplication and ensure a complementary use of the available CBPF funding, other funding sources, including bilateral contributions, are considered.

CBPFs help in-country relief organizations to reach the most vulnerable people and use available resources more effectively and efficiently.

Figure 21. CERF Allocations to Asia-Pacific (2013-2017)

TOP RECIPIENT EMERGENCY PER YEAR IN ASIA-PACIFIC

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
PHILIPPINES	**PAKISTAN**	**NEPAL**	**DPR KOREA**	**BANGLADESH**
(Typhoon Haiyan)	(IDPs)	(Gorkha Earthquake)	(Floods)	(Rohingya Crisis and Floods)

ASIA-PACIFIC AMOUNT AS A PERCENTAGE OF GLOBAL ALLOCATION

	$482M	$460M	$470M	$439M	$418M
	94M	36M	77M	58M	73M
	19%	8%	16%	13%	17%
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017

■ TOTAL CERF GLOBAL ALLOCATIONS   ■ CERF ALLOCATIONS TO ASIA-PACIFIC

NUMBER OF COUNTRIES ALLOCATED CERF IN ASIA-PACIFIC PER YEAR

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
8	7	8	12	9

- **CBPFs are inclusive and promote partnership.** Funds are directly available to a wide range of relief partners. This empowers humanitarian leadership and encourages collaboration and collective ownership of the emergency response.

- **CBPFs are timely and flexible.** They support the delivery of an agile response in fluid emergency situations.

- **CBPFs are efficient and accountable.** They minimize transaction costs and provide transparency and accountability. Recipient organizations are thoroughly assessed; relief projects are monitored with regular reporting on achievement. In the Agenda for Humanity, the UN Secretary-General stressed the critical role of CBPFs, and he called on donors to increase the proportion of humanitarian funding channelled through CBPFs to 15 per cent by 2018. At current levels, that would equal more than $2 billion per year.

In 2017, there were 18 active CBPFs globally, which received a combined total of $824 million and allocated more than $586 million to 614 partners in 18 countries to support 1,130 critical humanitarian projects that provided millions of people with health care, food aid, clean water and sanitation, shelter, and other life-saving assistance. The largest CBPFs operated in Yemen ($95.2 million), Ethiopia ($81.4 million) and Iraq ($71.7 million). Additionally, funds allocated by several CBPFs in support of people affected by the Syria crisis totalled $79.1 million and represents allocations in Jordan ($8.5 million), Lebanon ($5.7 million), Syria ($23.8 million) and Turkey ($41.1 million). In Asia and the Pacific, CBPFs are operational in Afghanistan, Myanmar and Pakistan.

WHO IS IT FOR?

Funding from CBPFs is directly available to UN agencies, national and international NGOs and Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

CBPFs are locally managed by the OCHA Country Office under the leadership of the HC. An advisory board oversees the management of CBPFs, providing advice on key decisions and ensuring that they are efficiently and effectively managed in compliance with policies and standards. At the global-level, the Pooled Fund Working Group (PFWG) brings together key stakeholders (representing donors, NGOs and UN agencies) to provide policy guidance. For more information, visit www.unocha.org/our-work/humanitarian-financing/country-based-pooled-funds-cbpfs/cbpfs-guidelines

Emergency Cash Grant (ECG) assists countries affected by natural disasters. These grants enable OCHA to quickly release funds to support relief efforts in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. As the custodian of the fund, OCHA evaluates requests and make determinations

on the appropriate allocation of cash grants. The allocation amount per disaster cannot exceed $100,000. The ECG was established by UN General Assembly Resolution 2816 in 1971 and later amended and updated by subsequent resolutions.

WHO IS IT FOR?

The RC Office (or, if applicable, the RC/HC) drafts the grant request, and—if approved— receives the disbursed funds and determines allocation in consultation with in-country partners. The RC/HC establishes the implementation arrangements, either through direct purchasing by UNDP or by channeling the funds to an implementing partner, such as a governmental service, a UN agency or fund, the Red Cross/Crescent, or an NGO. Regardless of the channeling mechanism, the RC/HC remains responsible for the use of the funds.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Requests for Emergency Cash Grants can be initiated from different sources, including the Office of the RC/HC, the OCHA Country or Regional Office, the Permanent Mission in Geneva or New York or directly from the Government of the affected country. Upon verification that the recipient country has requested and welcomes international assistance, the Office of the RC/HC prepares a written request to the OCHA Director of Operations.

IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a pool of un-earmarked funds that are reserved to ensure a rapid response by National Societies in disasters, crises and health emergencies. The DREF can provide amounts for both small and large-scale operations. DREF finances short-term relief to preserve life and provide basic sustenance. Allocations range from 20,000 Swiss Francs (CHF) to one million CHF.

If the scale of planned interventions cannot be met by a DREF alone, an **emergency appeal** may be launched. This is an international marketing and positioning document launched by the IFRC at the request of a National Society to generate funding. An appeal budget may cover the cost of FACT, ERUs, RDRTs and other IFRC global response tools, as well as the mobilization of international and national staff.

WHO IS IT FOR?

DREF is available to all 190 National Societies and has two main purposes. It provides funding for the IFRC and National Societies to respond to large scale disasters (loan facility), and for National Society responses to small- and medium-scale disasters and health emergencies for which no international appeal will be launched or when support from other actors is not foreseen (grant facility).

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

DREF is managed by the IFRC Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland. All requests for DREF allocations are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Funds can be authorized and released within 24 hours. For more information, visit media.ifrc.org/ifrc/dref

UN Development Programme (UNDP) TRAC 1.1.3 Category II Resources are used for coordinating a response to sudden onset crises, conducting needs assessments, initiating early recovery frameworks, and establishing the foundations for sustainable recovery.

WHO IS IT FOR?

TRAC 1.1.3 Category II Resources are made available to UNDP country programmes in support of national authorities.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Following an event requiring immediate emergency support, the UN RC/UNDP Resident Representative may send a request for an emergency allocation for Category II Resources of up to $100,000 to the UNDP Crisis Response Unit and the Regional Bureau. Under exceptional circumstances, an amount exceeding $100,000 may be requested. Requests for Category II Resources can be made for each distinct event within the same country.

Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility (PEF) provides surge funding for response efforts to help prevent rare, high-severity disease outbreaks from becoming more deadly and costly pandemics. The PEF covers six viruses that are most likely to cause a pandemic, including new Orthomyxoviruses (new influenza pandemic virus A), Coronaviridae (SARS, MERS), Filoviridae (Ebola, Marburg) and other zoonotic diseases (Crimean Congo, Rift Valley, Lassa fever). The PEF was developed in 2016 by the World Bank Group in collaboration with the WHO, and it is supported by Japan and Germany as well as private sector partners.

WHO IS IT FOR?

The PEF covers all low-income countries that qualify for credits from the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA). Eligible countries can receive timely, predictable, and coordinated surge financing if affected by an outbreak that meets PEF's activation criteria. PEF also provides funding to PEF-accredited international agencies involved in the response to a major outbreak.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Through a combination of insurance financed by bonds and derivatives, the PEF insurance window will make available up to $425 million for outbreaks of the six covered viruses that

meet the activation criteria. To complement the insurance window, the PEF also has a $55 million cash window. This provides the flexibility to make resources available for outbreaks that have not met, or will not meet, the criteria of the insurance window. The cash window covers a wider range of infectious disease outbreaks as well as single-country outbreaks. The insurance window, operational since July 2017, has an initial period of 3 years (with the possibility of being extended), and the cash window will be operational in 2018.

The PEF's insurance window will rely on clear, parametric activation criteria designed with publicly available data. To be eligible for PEF financing under the insurance window, an outbreak must meet specific criteria related to its severity. These criteria are based on the size, growth and spread of the outbreak. If these criteria are met, then the affected countries and/ or eligible international responders may submit a request for funding from the PEF. For more information, visit www.worldbank.org/pef

Global Preparedness Partnership (GPP) provides guidance and funding to UN Member States to support their national disaster preparedness efforts. Envisaged as a comprehensive service linking global initiatives to the national level and national initiatives to the community level, the GPP seeks to support alignment of the various national and international preparedness activities within a country. The GPP ensures a combined and coherent multi-partner effort and creates synergies among their preparedness work. The GPP's Financial Core Partners include FAO, OCHA, UNDP, the V20[5] group of countries, the World Bank, and WFP. Other partners include the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI), the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR), IFRC, and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

A Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) has been established to support the GPP. It is led by a Steering Committee co-chaired by a V20 and a donor representative. An Operational Subcommittee oversees operational decision-making and fund capitalisation. Both are supported by a secretariat based in Geneva, Switzerland and hosted by UNDP. There are no set amounts of funding that can be leveraged through the GPP's MPTF for a country's programme, but the requesting Government must commit resources to preparedness activities as well. The GPP plans to take applications for funding every six months.

WHO IS IT FOR?

The goal of the GPP is to support national Governments in their disaster preparedness efforts.

---

5   The V20 or "Vulnerable Twenty" consists of the 20 countries around the world most affected by crises related to climate change. The V20 members are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bhutan, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Kiribati, Madagascar, Maldives, Nepal, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Vietnam.

This partnership is available to any country, although it is initially focused on supporting V20 member States.

HOW IT IS ACCESSED?

For more information, visit www.agendaforhumanity.org/initiatives/gpp or contact the GPP Secretariat at global@preparednesspartnership.org

2. REGIONAL FINANCING MECHANISMS

Asia-Pacific Disaster Response Fund (APDRF) is a fund that provides incremental grant resources to Asian Development Bank's (ADB) developing member countries to restore life-preserving services to communities following major disasters triggered by natural hazard events. The APDRF helps bridge the gap between existing ADB arrangements that support disaster risk reduction and early recovery and reconstruction assistance.

APDRF provides grants up to $3 million per event. Factors that may influence the size of the grant include (1) the geographical extent of damage; (2) initial estimates of people affected; (3) the response capacity of key Government agencies in the country; and (4) the date and magnitude of the last disaster that affected the country (thereby taking into account the cumulative effect of the disaster on a country's ability to respond). Each distinct declaration of a disaster is regarded as a separate event and is eligible for assistance.

WHO IS IT FOR?

All ADB DMCs are eligible for grant assistance from the APDRF. The grants are provided to central Governments. They may then allocate funds to specific national and local Government agencies and to other suitable national or international entities, including NGOs.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Assistance may be granted once the following emergency conditions have been met: (1) a natural disaster has occurred in a DMC; (2) an emergency has been officially declared that is of a scale beyond the capacity of the country and its own agencies to meet the immediate expenses necessary to restore life-saving services to the affected populations; and (3) the UN HC/RC has confirmed the scale and implications of the disaster and has indicated a general amount of funding that would be required to assist in alleviating the situation. For more information, visit www.adb.org/site/funds/funds

ASEAN Disaster Management and Emergency Relief Fund (ADMER Fund) supports implementation of the AADMER Work Programmes, emergency response in ASEAN Member States and the operational activities of the AHA Centre. The ADMER Fund is administered by the ASEAN Secretariat and is replenished through voluntary contributions

from ASEAN Member States, and other public and private partners, including ASEAN Dialogue Partners and assisting (donor) Governments.

WHO IS IT FOR?

ADMER Fund is for ASEAN Member States and the AHA Centre.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

The Executive Director of the AHA Centre has been given discretionary authority to release the disbursement of up to $50,000 per emergency incident from the ADMER Fund.

South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund (SEARHEF) is a mechanism that allows for a rapid response to disasters to fill in critical gaps that may cause further morbidity and mortality. The fund was established in 2007 by the WHO South-East Asia Regional Office and its 11 Member States.[6]

WHO IS IT FOR?

SEARHEF is intended for the 11 Member States in the WHO South East Asia Region.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

Through the WHO country offices, the member countries can obtain financial support from the fund within 24 hours of an emergency. For any inquiries, please contact searhef@who.int For more information, visit www.searo.who.int/entity/searhef/en

3. STRATEGIC PLANNING AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION TOOLS

Flash Appeal is an initial inter-agency humanitarian response strategy and resource mobilization tool. It provides an analysis of the scope and severity of the humanitarian crisis and gives a concise overview of urgent life-saving needs. It also prioritizes actions and funding requirements for the immediate phase of the response. It is published immediately (ideally within 48 hours) after the disaster strikes and covers the first three to six months of the response. It is issued in sudden-onset emergencies or when there is significant and unforeseen escalation in protracted crises.

WHO IS IT FOR?

UN agencies, national and international NGOs, and the RCRC Movement can include projects in the Flash Appeal to support the overall strategic objectives of the inter-agency response.

---

6   The WHO South East Asia Region has 11 Member States: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

The Flash Appeal process is initiated by the UN RC or HC in consultation with the country team and national Government. The appeal is developed with the initial support of the UNDAC teams if they are already deployed. In countries without an OCHA presence, the regional office or OCHA headquarters supports the country team to develop the Flash Appeal. For examples on Flash Appeals, visit www.humanitarianresponse.info/en

CASE STUDY 6. THE FLASH APPEAL IN ACTION: NEPAL

Following the 7.8 magnitude earthquake in Nepal in April 2015, the UN and humanitarian partners issued a Flash Appeal to humanitarian organizations calling for US$42 million to support and complement the Government of Nepal's response to the needs of 2.8 million affected people. The Flash Appeal prioritized the most urgent, life-saving activities and covered emergency needs in food, nutrition, livelihoods, shelter, WASH and protection for the next six months.

Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) is a joint strategy, advocacy and resource mobilization tool that is developed by a country team to respond to a protracted or sudden onset emergency requiring international humanitarian assistance for more than six months. The plan articulates the shared vision of how to respond to the assessed and expressed needs of the affected population. The development of an HRP is a key step in the **Humanitarian Programme Cycle** and is carried out only when humanitarian needs have been understood and analysed through the **Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO)**. The HRP is generally launched when humanitarian needs extend beyond the period of a Flash Appeal and may form part of a multi-year response strategy.

WHO IS IT FOR?

The HRP is a response planning tool for country-based decision makers, such as the HC and Humanitarian Country Team, UN agencies, local and international NGOs, and cluster coordinators. Once a common strategy is agreed upon, UN agencies, NGOs and the RCRC Movement develop projects to support the operationalization of the strategy.

HOW IS IT ACCESSED?

The HC initiates and provides leadership in the planning process and, together with the HCT and in consultation with the Government, sets the priorities and strategy and ensures that the cluster response plans comply with the overall strategy. Organizations and clusters/ sectors participate in the process and contribute to the development of the plan. For more information on HRP, visit www.humanitarianresponse.info/en

End of chapter notes

VI.

EARLY WARNING

VI. EARLY WARNING

A. EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

A growing number of early warning systems is available to disaster managers in Asia and the Pacific. Early warning systems vary in geographic and thematic coverage, and they offer different levels of situational awareness, alerting and executive decision-making support to national Governments and their partners. The regional and international early warning systems listed here are in addition to the mechanisms operated by national meteorological agencies and other Government entities in the region, including NDMOs.

1. WEATHER FORECASTING

Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) provides weather advisories and tropical cyclone alerts for the Indian Ocean and the Pacific. It can be accessed through www.metoc.navy.mil/jtwc/jtwc.html

Fiji Meteorological Service offers weather forecasting and tropical cyclone warning services on a regional scale to countries across the South Pacific in addition to forecasting for Fiji. It can be accessed through www.met.gov.fj

Emergency Managers Weather Information Network (EmWIN) offers severe weather information through a suite of data-access methods (radio, internet, satellite) and live stream alerts. It can be accessed through www.nws.noaa.gov/emwin

Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) monitors extreme natural phenomena such as earthquakes, tsunamis, typhoons and heavy rains for Japan and neighbouring countries. It can be accessed through www.jma.go.jp/jma

Australian Bureau of Meteorology provides weather advisories and tropical cyclone alerts for Australia and neighbouring countries. It can be accessed through www.bom.gov.au

2. MULTI-HAZARD EARLY WARNING

Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) provides regional early warning services and builds the capacity of its Member States in the end-to-end early warning of tsunami and hydro-meteorological hazards.
It can be accessed through www.rimes.int

ASEAN Disaster Monitoring and Response System (DMRS) integrates data and information from numerous sources, including national and international hazard monitoring and disaster warning agencies, into a single platform. The DMRS can issue alerts of potential disaster and significant impacts from multiple hazards in the region. It reports imminent hazards, incidents of disaster occurrence and updates on disaster parameters. AHA Centre Flash Alerts are generated from the DMRS. All ASEAN Member States' NDMOs have access to monitor and contribute to the DMRS.
It can be accessed through dmrs.ahacentre.org/dmrs/

Disaster AWARE provides global Internet-based multi-hazard monitoring, alerting and decision support to disaster management and international organizations and NGOs. Disaster AWARE also powers the regional and national warning systems at the ASEAN AHA Centre, Viet Nam's DMC and Thailand's NDWC.[1] It can be accessed through disasteralert.pdc.org/disasteralert/

US Geological Survey (USGS) provides information on global ecosystems and environments, especially natural hazard warnings. USGS supports the warning responsibilities of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for geomagnetic storms and tsunamis. It can be accessed through www.usgs.gov

Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS) provides alerts about global hazards and tools to facilitate response coordination. It contains preliminary disaster information and electronically calculated loss-and-impact estimations after major disasters. It can be accessed through www.gdacs.org

Automatic Disaster Analysis and Mapping (ADAM) is an automated alert system providing near real-time information on disasters to enhance immediate humanitarian response. It can be accessed through geonode.wfp.org/adam.html

---

1   Pacific Disaster Center (PDC) hosts two applications: [1] EMOPS, for disaster management professionals, and [2] the Global Hazards Atlas, for the public. A Disaster Alert mobile app is also available. Indonesia is working with PDC to develop its own version of DisasterAWARE. The Philippines and Cambodia have also expressed an interest in acquiring national versions.

3. FLOOD EARLY WARNING

Mekong River Commission Monitoring and Forecasting monitors water levels of the Mekong River and provides flash flood warnings.
It can be accessed through www.mrcmekong.org

4. TSUNAMI EARLY WARNING

Pacific Tsunami Warning System (PTWS) monitors seismological and tidal stations throughout the Pacific Basin to evaluate potential tsunamis triggered by earthquakes. It can be accessed through ptwc.weather.gov

Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) provides tsunami early warning to nations bordering the Indian Ocean. It consists of 25 seismographic stations and three deep-ocean sensors. It can be accessed through iotic.ioc-unesco.org

VII.

WEBLINKS

VII. WEBLINKS

II. GUIDANCE FRAMEWORKS

A. NON-BINDING REGULATORY AGREEMENTS BETWEEN STATES

United Nations General Assembly resolution 46/182

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Guideline for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance (also known as the IDRL Guidelines)

World Customs Organization Resolution on the Role of Customs in Natural Disaster Relief

B. BINDING REGULATORY AGREEMENTS BETWEEN STATES

ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER)

AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Natural Disaster Rapid Response Mechanism (NDRRM)

C. VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES GOVERNING HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Transformative Agenda Protocols

World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) Agenda for Humanity

Code of Conduct for the RCRC Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief

Sphere: Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere Handbook)

The Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability

Minimum Initial Service Package

IASC Operational Guidelines on the Protection of Persons in Situations of Natural Disasters -

Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

Oslo Guidelines on the Use of Foreign Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief -

Asia-Pacific Regional Guidelines for the Use of Foreign Military Assets in Natural Disaster Response Operations

Management of Dead Bodies after Disasters Field Manual

Environmental Emergencies Guidelines

Disaster Waste Management Guidelines

IASC Commitments on Accountability to Affected People and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

IASC Gender Handbook in Humanitarian Action

IASC Guidelines for Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Settings

Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (ST/SGB/2003/13)

Community Based Complaint Mechanism Best Practice Guide

III. HUMANITARIAN ACTORS

A. UNITED NATIONS

UN Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies (UN Agencies)

B. RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

RCRC Movement

International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

C. REGIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND FORUMS

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre)

ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)

East Asia Summit (EAS)

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

SAARC Disaster Management Centre

Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)

Pacific Community (PC)

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

D. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN)

Asia Preparedness Partnership (APP)

International Council of Voluntary Agencies

InterAction

Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response

START Network

NEAR Network

E. PRIVATE SECTOR

Connecting Business initiative (CBi)

IV. COORDINATION MECHANISMS

A. GLOBAL-LEVEL MECHANISMS

Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC)

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)

B. REGIONAL-LEVEL MECHANISMS

Regional Consultative Group (RCG) on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination for Asia and the Pacific

Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination in Disaster Response: Towards a Predictable Model

C. COUNTRY-LEVEL MECHANISMS

Humanitarian Coordinator (HC)

Humanitarian Country Team (HCT)

D. BRIDGING MECHANISMS

Clusters

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination (UN-CMCoord)

V. TOOLS AND SERVICES FOR DISASTER RESPONSE

A. TECHNICAL TEAMS

International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG)

Emergency Medical Teams (EMT)

Virtual On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (VOSOCC)

On-Site Operations Coordination Center (OSOCC)

UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) teams

Environment and Emergencies Centre (EEC)

Environmental Experts Hub (EEH)

ASEAN Emergency Rapid Assessment Teams (ERAT)

Regional Disaster Response Teams (RDRTs)

Field Assessment Coordination Teams (FACT)

Emergency Response Units (ERUs)

B. RELIEF ASSETS AND STOCKPILES

International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP)

UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) Network

DELSA

C. STANDBY AND SURGE ROSTERS

OCHA Emergency Surge Mechanisms

Inter-Agency Rapid Response Mechanism

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster

Logistics Cluster

NORCAP, ProCap, GenCap, CashCap, ACAPS

RedR

Start Network

DHL DRT

D. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

MapAction

iMMAP

ReliefWeb

HumanitarianResponse.info

Financial Tracking Service (FTS)

Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX)

Humanitarian ID

ASEAN Disaster Info Network

ASEAN Science-based Disaster Management Platform (ASDMP)

South Asian Disaster Knowledge Network

UNOSAT

UN-SPIDER

Sentinel Asia

International Space Charter

Multi-Cluster Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA)

Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) and Disaster Recovery Framework (DRF)

KoBo Toolbox

Flash Environmental Assessment Tool (FEAT)

E. READINESS PLANNING

Guidelines for the domestic facilitation and regulation of international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance (IDRL Guidelines)

Model Act for the Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial

Recovery Assistance

UN Model Customs Facilitation Agreement

Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP) Guidance

ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan (AJDRP)

F. HUMANITARIAN FINANCING MECHANISMS

Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)

Country-based Pooled Funds

IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)

World Bank Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility

Global Preparedness Partnership

Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund (APDRF)

ASEAN Disaster Management and Emergency Relief Fund (ADMER Fund)

South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund

Flash Appeal

Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)

VI. EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

A. WEATHER FORECASTING

Joint Typhoon Warning Center

Fiji Meteorological Service

Emergency Managers Weather Information Network (EmWIN)

Japan Meteorological Agency

Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology

B. MULTI-HAZARD EARLY WARNING

Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES)

ASEAN Disaster Monitoring and Response System (DMRS)

Pacific Disaster Center Disaster AWARE

US Geological Survey (USGS)

Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS)

WFP Automatic Disaster Analysis and Mapping (ADAM)

C. FLOOD EARLY WARNING

Mekong River Commission Monitoring and Forecasting

D. TSUNAMI EARLY WARNING

Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC)

Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System