

Capacity Development Support to the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) – Phase 2

July 2022 – June 2024



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

Context

Since 2017, Switzerland has been supporting the implementation of the multi-year work programme of the **ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER)**, the most recent being the Work Programme 2021-2025. The expanded cooperation between Switzerland and ASEAN takes place under the Sectoral Dialogue Partnership Practical Cooperation Area related to Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance.

The signing of a bilateral Memorandum of Intent in 2019 in Bangkok offered an opportunity to develop a first broader support to the AHA Centre between 2020 and 2022. Considering the positive outcomes of the latter, SDC and the AHA Centre decided to continue strengthening ASEAN's regional disaster risk management capacities during a second phase.

Expected Outcomes

Outcome 1: The national capacities of the ASEAN member states in responding to disasters are enhanced

Outcome 2: ASEAN's collective capacities to respond to disasters are improved

Outcome 3: Increased capability of ASEAN countries to share knowledge and experience in disaster management within the region and beyond

Budget

980'080 CHF

Duration

July 2022 – June 2024 (24 months)

Location

AHA Centre HQ, Jakarta and South-East Asia

SDC's presence in the field

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Switzerland and the AHA Centre officially launched phase 2 of the collaboration on the margins of the 41st ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management in Bangkok, Thailand, 19 October 2022.

Through financial resources and Swiss expertise, this renewed contribution will support existing and new activities from 2022 until 2024 with the overarching goal of enhancing ASEAN's operational disaster risk management capacities. Specifically, the planned activities will further strengthen the emergency response capabilities of the AHA Centre and individual ASEAN Member States as well as supporting knowledge and expertise sharing within the region and beyond.

Outcome 1: Enhancing national capacities of ASEAN Member States in responding to disasters and emergencies

Localization of capacity building programmes in Lao PDR, Vietnam and Cambodia

In 2019, the AHA Centre began localizing the concept of ASEAN-Emergency Response and Assistance Team (ERAT) at the national level. SDC will support the development of localized training curriculum inspired by ASEAN-ERAT trainings for Lao PDR, Vietnam and Cambodia. Following pilot trainings, a training of trainer course will be held. A revision of the curriculum, based on the results of the first implementation, will be conducted during a final evaluation workshop.

National workshops in Lao PDR and Vietnam on accepting and preparing international assistance

Based on the experience of the 2019 workshop on the management of international assistance held in Jakarta, similar workshops for Lao PDR and Vietnam will be supported by SDC to allow the development of country-specific mechanisms.

Outcome 2: Improvement of ASEAN's collective capacities to respond to disasters

Support for regional table top/simulation exercises (e.g. ARDEX)

The AHA Centre organizes regular exercises to maintain operational readiness of its staff and the ASEAN Member States. SDC will support the organization of a table top exercise with Member States and the ASEAN Regional Disaster

Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX) in 2023. Experts from the Swiss Humanitarian Aid will be deployed to support the AHA Centre, intervene as referees during the exercise, and help the training of referees.



Switzerland also provided Swiss expertise for previous editions of ARDEX in 2016 and 2018 (the 2020 exercise was cancelled due to COVID-19).

Conducting a feasibility study to respond beyond the ASEAN region

The ASEAN vision 2025 mentions ASEAN's ambition to become a global leader in disaster management and offer its assistance to countries outside the ASEAN region. To realize this vision, a feasibility study will be conducted to better understand how ASEAN can respond as a collective entity and how its support can add value to the international humanitarian system.

Positioning of non-food relief items (NFRIs) in DELSA warehouses

The AHA Centre has been managing the ASEAN stockpile of relief items since 2012 under the Disaster Emergency Logistics System of ASEAN (DELSA). SDC will support this system by replenishing stocks in DELSA warehouses. Planned items include kitchen sets (4'000 units), tarpaulins (1'468 units) and other NFRIs to maintain the minimum stocks required for adequate readiness.



During Phase 1, Switzerland prepositioned NFRIs in the DELSA warehouses in Chai Nat, Thailand and Subang, Malaysia

Support for ASEAN Senior Executive Programme in Disaster Management (SEPDM)

The SEPDM is a high-level training programme devoted to current and future policy makers in ASEAN. Since its inception in 2015, more than 100 official delegates from ASEAN Member States have benefited from this programme. SDC supported the ASEAN Secretariat in organising the SEPDM in 2017. Between 2018 and 2021, the training was organised in partnership with the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) and the IFRC. SDC will provide further financial and technical support to conduct the SEPDM from 2022 to 2025.

Outcome 3: Increasing the capability of ASEAN countries to share knowledge and experience in disaster management within the region and beyond

Participation of the AHA Centre in international events on disaster management

By participating at key international and regional disaster management events, the AHA Centre is able to share its expertise on regional disaster management and response with key partners in and beyond the ASEAN region. SDC will support the attendance of the AHA Centre to two events per year from 2022 to 2025.

Job exchange programme between ASEAN Member States and the AHA Centre

To support the capacity development of both National Disaster Management Organisations (NDMOs) and AHA Centre staff, particularly on disaster monitoring and analysis, and to create a better operational working relationship between the AHA Centre and NDMOs, SDC will support 1) the annual deployment of two AHA Centre officers to selected NDMOs for one month and 2) the annual deployment of NDMO officers to support the AHA Centre's Disaster Monitoring and Analysis Unit for one month. This job exchange will contribute to enhance a common understanding of the operational mechanisms.

Enhancing the AHA centre's role as a knowledge hub

This activity will support the development of a community of practice in disaster management. The AHA Centre is aiming at establishing a community known as ASEAN Disaster Information Laboratory (ADILab) by regrouping stakeholders that share a common interest in innovating, promoting, and studying the field of disaster risk management. SDC will support two gatherings of ADILab members to discuss issues relevant to disaster management.

Support for ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management (SPDDM)

Since the first inaugural SPDDM in 2015, ACDM decided to organise this event annually to sharpen ASEAN's policy direction, strategic engagements and leadership in disaster management. Since 2017, SDC has joined hands with SCDF and IFRC in supporting ASEC and the AHA centre to organise the SPDDM in 2018, 2019 and 2021. SDC will provide further financial support to conduct the SPDDM from 2022 to 2025.