

2024-2027 ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM WORK PLAN FOR DISASTER RELIEF

PART I. CONCEPT PAPER.....	3
I. CONTEXT.....	3
II. OBJECTIVES.....	3
III. PRIORITY AREAS AND PROJECT TYPES.....	4
IV. LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND FUNDING STRUCTURE.....	4
LEAD COUNTRIES	4
ARF UNIT 5	
PROJECT APPLICATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW	5
V. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER REGIONAL/INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS.....	6
PART II. IMPLEMENTATION ANNEX.....	7
RATIONALE/STRATEGY:.....	7
PRIORITY AREA 1: PROMOTE INFORMATION SHARING TO JOINTLY ENHANCE THE CAPACITY FOR DISASTER ASSESSMENT, MONITORING AND EARLY WARNING.....	8
A. SCOPE	8
B. POTENTIAL PROJECT THEMES (INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO)	8
C. LEAD COUNTRIES (TO BE DETERMINED)	9
D. PROPOSED PROJECTS (TO BE DETERMINED)	9
E. REFERENCES – AADMER/AADMER WORK PROGRAM/ARF	9
F. PAST RELEVANT ACTIVITIES:	10
PRIORITY AREA 2: PROMOTE RAPID DEPLOYMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF HADR AND COOPERATION ON RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION.....	10
A. SCOPE	10
B. POTENTIAL PROJECT THEMES (INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO):	11
C. LEAD COUNTRIES: (TO BE DETERMINED)	11
D. PROPOSED PROJECTS (TO BE DETERMINED)	12
E. REFERENCES:	12
F. PAST RELEVANT ACTIVITIES:	12
PRIORITY AREA 3: PROMOTE INTEROPERABILITY AND COORDINATION IN HADR OPERATION.....	12
A. SCOPE	12
B. POTENTIAL PROJECT THEMES (INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO)	13
C. LEADING COUNTRY (TO BE DETERMINED)	13
D. PROPOSED PROJECTS (TO BE DETERMINED)	14
E. REFERENCES	14
F. PAST RELEVANT ACTIVITIES:	15

2024 ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM WORK PLAN FOR DISASTER RELIEF 2024-2027

ASEAN Regional Forum Work Plan for Disaster Relief 2024-2027 consists of Concept Paper and Implementation Annex. Concept Paper consists of context, objectives, priority areas and project types, leadership, management and funding structure, and relationship with other regional/global efforts. Implementation Annex elaborates each priority areas into implementation plans, including scope, potential project themes, lead countries, proposed Projects, references and past relevant activities.

PART I. CONCEPT PAPER

I. CONTEXT

Disaster management and response have been key areas of cooperation within the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) over the past years. The ARF has taken significant steps to enhance regional capabilities for disaster risk reduction, preparedness, and response through various initiatives and plans.

In July 2008, the 15th ARF Ministerial Meeting held in Singapore tasked the co-chairs of the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief (Indonesia and the European Union), to work with ARF participants to draw up the first ARF Disaster Relief Work Plan, aimed at coordinating ARF-wide cooperation on disaster relief. In July 2009, the 16th ARF Ministerial Meeting was held in Thailand, at which the *ARF Disaster Relief Work Plan* for 2009-2011 was adopted. Afterwards, there have been four *ARF Disaster Relief Work Plans* that were adopted (for the period of 2012-2014, 2015-2017, 2018-2020 and 2021-2023).

In addition to the Work Plans, other guiding documents for the ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief include the *Hanoi Plan of Action on the Implementation of the ARF Vision Statement* ("Hanoi Plan of Action") I and II (adopted at the 17th and 27th ARF Ministerial Meeting in 2010 and 2020 respectively); the *ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management* (endorsed at the 3rd ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management in 2015); the *One ASEAN, One Response Declaration* (adopted at the 28th ASEAN Summit in 2016); and the *Declaration on Disaster Health Management* (adopted at the 31st ASEAN Summit in 2017).

II. OBJECTIVES

Drawing on the experience of ARF participants, taking guidance from ARF documents including the *2010 and 2020 Hanoi Plan of Action*, the *2006 ARF Statement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response*, the *2007 ARF General Guidelines on Disaster Relief Cooperation*, the *2010 ARF Strategic Guidance for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief*, the *2018 ARF Statement on Disaster Management Cooperation*, and taking into account the latest developments in the implementation of the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*, the *ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response Work Programme 2021-2025* and *One ASEAN One Response* and other initiatives, we have updated the Disaster Relief Work Plan for 2021-2024 and formulated the Disaster Relief Work Plan for 2024-2027.

The key objective is to ensure long-term coordination and comprehensive planning among ARF participants, and to continue to:

- Assist in the coordination of regional and/or sub-regional exercises and emergency response training to improve disaster preparedness capacity.
- Capture and build on shared experience and lessons learned, including from joint exercises.
- Maintain and build on existing ARF government efforts in capacity-building endeavors, technical support and information exchange.
- Complement and coordinate with existing regional and global initiatives.
- Strengthen existing government to government, regional and global disaster management networks; and
- Promote networks and partnerships between and among state and non-state actors.

III. PRIORITY AREAS AND PROJECT TYPES

Priority areas are the cooperation areas of key concerns that are relevant and operable. The Work Plan and priority areas will be reviewed and updated or modified as necessary every two years at the ISM on Disaster Relief.

A project may take many forms. It can be single events or a series of activities with complexities. Some examples include but not limited to:

1. *Capacity-building workshops* that share information on experience and bring in government, private sector, community and other relevant experts to train and develop best practices, including the use of information technology on disaster management and emergency response.
2. *Pilot projects* that utilize funding given to the ARF Fund for a submitted technical assistance or capacity building project(s) in one or more ARF participants. The ARF Pilot Project should be within the scope of agreed Priority Areas and could be implemented by government agencies in cooperation with civil organizations or private sector agencies.
3. *Multilateral tabletop or field exercises* that test the implementation of international and regional agreements, modes of communication among ARF and subregional participants, and impacts on critical infrastructures that are more at risk of damage. Future exercises should take into account capacity building and technical support needs, modes of communication and information sharing among exercise participants, and alternative plans and methods to rehabilitate critical infrastructures.

IV. LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND FUNDING STRUCTURE

Lead Countries

Lead Countries will be composed of one ASEAN and one non-ASEAN ARF participant. Lead Countries will be responsible for briefly updating each ARF Inter-Sessional Support Group (ISG), Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) and ISM DR meeting on recent and future progress in their Priority

Area. The ISM DR Co-Chairs will monitor the effectiveness of the activities based on the reports given by the Lead Countries.

Lead Countries will be responsible for coordinating the input provided by ARF participants to their respective Priority Area, proposing their own projects, coordinating the work of their Priority Area, and seeking out Co-Sponsors to fund and host projects in need of assistance.

Lead Countries will be responsible for:

1. Liaising with the ARF Unit and ISM DR Co-Chairs on the coordination and implementation of Work Plan requirements;
2. Updating the ARF Unit and ISM DR Co-Chairs on Work Plan contributions; and
3. Working with the ARF Unit to de-conflict projects, as appropriate.

ARF Unit

An essential element of this Work Plan continues to be the strengthened mandate of the ARF Unit. In order to effectively implement the Work Plan and specific projects, the ARF Unit will be requested to:

1. Provide administrative and technical support to ISM DR and appropriate project meetings;
2. Liaise regularly with Lead Countries to ensure adequate coordination and implementation of Work Plan requirements;
3. Serve as a depository of incoming project proposals for countries;
4. Coordinate the implementation of certain projects including financial coordination of ARF contributions, contract services, and, if and as appropriate, engage in project monitoring, as directed by Lead Countries and in consultation with the ARF ISM DR Co-Chairs; and
5. Coordinate and de-conflict ARF projects, as appropriate with Lead Countries, Co-Sponsors, training centers, and other regional/international organizations.

Project application, implementation and review

The ISM DR Co-Chairs should seek to create an ISM DR agenda and meeting conducive to substantive discussion of and overall guidance to the Work Plan. All ARF participants are encouraged to submit project proposals to contribute to the development of functional cooperation in line with the Priority Areas of this Work Plan. ISM DR Co-Chairs should also be consulted in the development of Priority Area projects.

With a view to visualizing the connection between ARF official events and this Work Plan, when submitting project proposals to acquire the status of ARF official event, ARF participants should indicate the linkages, as appropriate, between their projects and Priority Areas of the Work Plan. ISM

DR Co-Chairs should encourage ARF participants to organize ARF official events in line with Priority Areas of this Work Plan. Events will have one ASEAN and one non-ASEAN ARF participant Co-sponsor.

Every Lead Country and Co-Sponsor should set a voluntary goal for introducing and contributing towards one project within the framework of the Priority Area during their two-year tenure. Lead Countries are encouraged to coordinate outside of ARF plenary meetings in order to manage their Priority Area.

The involvement of all ARF participants continues to be encouraged, although the Work Plan will not impose mandatory obligations upon any participants and will operate on the basis of consent. Projects will be funded by ARF participants unless noted otherwise. If necessary, sponsoring nations may seek assistance from donor nations or outside organizations.

During the annual ISM DR, the Work Plan will be reviewed in depth to ensure continued relevance. Additional activities will be added and the Work Plan will be revised, as needed. Major changes to the Work Plan, such as the addition or subtraction of Priority Areas, should be approved by the Ministers. ISM DR Co-Chairs, Lead Countries and the ARF Unit will be responsible for updating and maintaining the implementation annex.

V. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER REGIONAL/INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS

The 15th ARF recognized the need for the Work Plan to be complementary to and coordinate appropriately with relevant regional and global efforts on disaster relief coordination and disaster risk reduction. Such efforts include, but not limited to, the efforts of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Emergency Preparedness Working Group, the ASEAN Coordination Center for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Center), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Disaster Management Framework, the United Nations Office for the Coordination Of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) and the ADMM-Plus, and various disaster centers throughout the region. ARF activities should also comply with international guidance such as the "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction" and International Disaster Response Law Guidelines. Other important mechanisms are the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM).

Through this Work Plan, the following actions will be taken to ensure activities are complementary to and in coordination with other regional and global efforts:

1. The participation, as far as possible, of regional/international organizations in annual ISM DR meetings, including co-chairs of the ADMM-Plus Expert Working Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief;
2. The participation, where possible, of the ARF Unit and ISM DR Co-Chairs in relevant meetings of other forums;
3. If possible, back-to-back meetings of the ISM on DR with the ADMM-Plus Expert Working Group on HADR;

4. Consistent sharing of organization reports, strategies and Work Plans, etc. by ARF with other organizations;
5. Consultation by Lead Countries, the ARF Unit, and ISM DR Co-Chairs with representatives of other forums; and
6. Once approved by ARF Ministers, publication of the Disaster Management Work Plans on ARF and ASEAN public websites.

PART II. IMPLEMENTATION ANNEX

RATIONALE/STRATEGY:

The 18th ARF ISM on Disaster Relief was held in Vientiane, Laos from April 1 to 4 2019. Participants reviewed the progress of the Disaster Relief Work Plan for 20182020 in the past year. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 19th ISM on Disaster Relief, originally planned to be held in China in July 2020, was postponed to 2021.

In November 2020, ASEAN adopted the “ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response” 2021-2025 Work Programme (AADMER Work Program 2021-2025), proposing 5 priority areas including Risk Assessment and Monitoring, Prevention and Mitigation, Disaster Preparedness and Response, Resilience and Recovery and Global Leadership. This Work Plan fully considers the 5 priority areas in the AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025 and the principles of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, which will help achieve the outcomes and objectives of the AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025. However, given the ARF’s broader membership (including 10 ASEAN participants and 17 non-ASEAN participants), projects that do not directly contribute to the AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025 may still be considered.

Building on the preparedness and response activities under the AADMER Work Program 2021-2025 and other ASEAN-related mechanisms including the EAS and the ARF, this Work Plan focuses on the need to improve regional capabilities for disaster monitoring, early warning and response coordination, helps realize One ASEAN, One Response Declaration as well as implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and AADMER Work Program 2021-2025 at regional and national levels.

The priority areas of this Work Plan will be as follows:

1. Promote Information Sharing to Jointly Enhance the Capacity for Disaster Assessment, Monitoring and Early Warning;
2. Promote Rapid Deployment and Acceptance of HADR and Cooperation on Recovery and Reconstruction;
3. Promote Interoperability and Coordination in HADR operation.

As ASEAN member states and ASEAN dialogue partners, in most cases, are members or participants of ASEAN-related mechanisms, such as ASEAN Plus Three (ASEAN+3), ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM+) and East Asia Summit (EAS), activities under this Work Plan will fully consider activities in ASEAN-related mechanisms and those organized by United Nations agencies or other regional organizations.

PRIORITY AREA 1:
PROMOTE INFORMATION SHARING TO JOINTLY ENHANCE THE CAPACITY FOR
DISASTER ASSESSMENT, MONITORING AND EARLY WARNING

A. Scope

Information sharing and networking among relevant national agencies as well as among countries have been recurring themes in HADR cooperation among ARF participants. These are important elements in improving disaster risk reduction and disaster response capacities. Existing mechanisms/systems, in particular, the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), should be further utilized to facilitate exchange of real-time information and networking. Closer collaboration between these mechanisms/systems would help to enhance the capacities of the ARF participants in HADR operations.

Disaster risk reduction is an integral part of social and economic development and essential for sustainable development, including by integrating gender perspective in the promotion of information sharing. Unless disaster risks are effectively managed, increasing loss and damage will continue to undermine efforts to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development. Close attention should be paid to the content related to risk assessment, monitoring and early warning in the AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025 to raise awareness and understanding disaster risk.

Risk assessment, monitoring and early warning are one of the priority areas of the AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025. There is still room for improvement of all countries. There is a need to further strengthen disaster risk information and experience sharing and enhance regional disaster management capacity

B. Potential Project Themes (include, but are not limited to)

1. Exploring networking among existing mechanisms (such as the AHA Center, the ASEAN Center of Military Medicine, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Changi Regional HADR Coordination Center) to promote sharing of real-time information among ARF participants in times of disaster emergencies; improving the communication mechanism among ARF participants;
2. Conducting joint research on major natural disasters, risk assessment of multihazards and disaster chain, standards and specifications, technologies and methods; promoting the sharing of related data and results on disaster risk assessment and improving disaster risk identification and response capacity of ARF participants;
3. Conducting risk assessment of trans-regional natural disasters that covers entire cycle with all factors included, so as to improve regional coordination and collective response capabilities;
4. Carrying out technological exchanges and cooperation on comprehensive disaster risk monitoring and early warning;
5. Promoting cooperation on the monitoring and early warning of disasters such as typhoons, floods and droughts; exchanging information in a timely manner, and building early warning and forecasting applications and platform;

6. Strengthening the exchange of working mechanisms and practices in the early detection, reporting, and handling of disaster risks, to improve effectiveness of information reporting and processing;
7. Sharing typical cases and practices in disaster risk reduction, case studies and tabletop exercises;
8. Jointly building earthquake monitoring and early warning network, carry out scientific and technological exchanges and cooperation in geodynamics, seismic risk assessment and prevention, as well as technical training on earthquake observation and prevention;
9. Raising risk awareness and improving understanding of disaster risk reduction and its relationship with sustainable development;
10. Promoting sharing of best practices and lessons learnt with other international bodies dealing with disaster risk reduction and disaster relief, public health emergencies and climate change adaption;
11. Strengthening the exchange and cooperation in regulations, policies and standards on disaster risk reduction;
12. Promote Information Sharing to Jointly Enhance the Capacity for Disaster Assessment, Monitoring and Early Warning;
13. Integrating gender perspective and promoting gender empowerment in disaster risk reduction and disaster response capacities.

C. Lead Countries (To be determined)

D. Proposed Projects (To be determined)

E. References – AADMER/AADMER Work Program/ARF

1. ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2021-2025.
2. Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN Regional Forum Vision Statement: 1.2. Support and contribute to the implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) through concrete and practical activities.
3. 6th ARF ISM on DR (Qingdao, 18-20 September 2006): Noted the recommendation for ARF countries to strengthen regional disaster preparedness through such measures as holding joint training and exercises, and (ii) developing risk monitoring and early warning capabilities through sharing information, expertise and technologies, as well as contributing and utilization of the UNESCAP Tsunami Regional Trust Fund.

4. ARF Disaster Relief Mapping Service (ARF-DRMS). A practical tool termed the ARF Disaster Relief Mapping Service (ARF-DRMS) Initiative was developed by Australia and Singapore. The Mapping Service contains geospatial data which will be voluntarily contributed by ARF participants and readily available in the event of emergency. The Mapping Service had become operational in July 2010 and can be accessed through the Links section of the ARFNet.

F. Past Relevant Activities:

1. ARF Disaster Relief Mapping Service (ARF-DRMS)
2. Development of systems in the area of RAEWM developed under the purview of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) for the AHA Centre. These include:
 - (i) ASEAN Disaster Monitoring and Response System (DMRS) with the Pacific Disaster Center supported by the United States;
 - (ii) ASEAN Standby Arrangements Database with the United States (to be connected to the DMRS);
 - (iii) Web EOC and the ICT capabilities of AHA Centre and the ASEAN member States through Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF);
 - (iv) ASEAN-Wide Disaster Risk Assessment Strategy supported by UNDRR and GFDRR;
 - (v) Knowledge Management (KM) system led by Singapore as ASEAN's lead country;
 - (vi) Database development and flood risk management with JICA;
 - (vii) ASEAN Earthquake Model being developed by academic/scientific institutions based in ASEAN region led by Singapore NTU and supported by Australia-Indonesia Facility for Disaster Reduction (AIFDR), etc.;
3. Application of Satellite Technologies for Emergencies Preparedness, Management and Response (EPMR) in Asia-Pacific Region, August 2013, Indonesia.
4. International workshop within the framework of Russia-ASEAN strategic partnership on improving the interaction of national crisis management centers, in Russia, 2013.
5. ARF Workshop on Typhoon Disaster Risk Reduction and Damage Mitigation on 5-6 December 2017 in Guangzhou, China.

PRIORITY AREA 2:

PROMOTE RAPID DEPLOYMENT AND ACCEPTANCE OF HADR AND COOPERATION ON RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION

A. Scope

Facilitating better disaster relief coordination among ARF participants requires several elements such as defining protocols on requesting, offering and accepting of assistance, and overcoming procedural

bottlenecks to expedite transit procedures for assisting entities to bring in relief assets and capacities to the affected country. Efficient systems for issuing permits/rights/licenses to assist in disasters are needed. Customs clearance, immigration and quarantine procedures for bringing in relief supplies and personnel must be prepared. Privileges and immunity for assisting countries' personnel and their assets are in conformity with domestic procedures, effective laws and regulations.

This priority area should look into gaps and bottlenecks in deployment and acceptance of assistance in HADR operations without resorting to creation of new mechanisms. Rather, existing ARF mechanisms such as the ARF Strategic Guidance on HADR and the ARF Voluntary Model Arrangement on the Use of Foreign Military and Civil Defence Assets (MCDA) in Disaster Relief should be re-examined to meet the current needs. The ASEAN's operational mechanisms such as the Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Operations (SASOP) as well as the IDRL "Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance" developed by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement could be reference.

Moreover, post-disaster reconstruction is crucial to the restoration of the normal life of the population in the affected areas. Therefore, ARF should carry out more relevant activities to improve its participants' capacity for post-disaster reconstruction, especially with a view to preventing recurrence of disasters by Building Back Better (BBB).

B. Potential Project Themes (include, but are not limited to):

1. Reviewing existing domestic policies, procedures and regulations to identify gaps and propose amendments as appropriate to facilitate the entry of international assistance and make it easier for the ARF participants and other assisting entities to provide assistance, if needed;
2. Developing, examining or implementing tools (such as protocols, model arrangements, training, etc.) to facilitate rapid deployment and enhance the efficiency of the entry of assistance in HADR operations;
3. Developing mechanisms for joint or complementary ways of working with the other humanitarian actors;
4. Sharing experience and practices on the evacuation of the population in dangerous areas to minimize casualties and on the resettlement and relief of those evacuated, e.g. the selection of resettlement sites, material support, resettlement sites management, etc.;
5. Sharing practices on post-disaster recovery and reconstruction and on the rapid restoration of normal life in the affected areas, e.g. through financial subsidies, engineering projects and infrastructure support;
6. Promoting "First Responder" program to improve disaster response capacity at community level;
7. Integrating gender perspective and promoting gender equality in the deployment and acceptance of assistance in HADR operations;
8. Introducing and implementing universal contingency plan for ASEAN region supporting early recovery for specific groups such as marginalized or minority groups (tribes, urban slums with highly density population).

C. Lead Countries: (To be determined)

D. Proposed Projects (To be determined)

E. References:

1. ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2021-2025;
2. Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN Regional Forum Vision Statement: 1.4. Develop and refine tools such as regional protocols, a standby arrangement system, a model legal arrangement for foreign military assistance, common standard operating procedures, best practices, a voluntary registration scheme of civilian and military capabilities, and innovative initiatives that ultimately create effective regional disaster response framework complementary to internationally established guidelines;
3. 10th ARF ISM-DR, Bangkok 2-3 September 2010: Develop synergies, share lessons, and ultimately institutionalize coordination between ARDEX and the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (ARF DiREx);
4. 2nd ARF Seminar on Laws and Regulations on Armed Forces' Participation in International Disaster Relief, Beijing, 30-31 August 2010. In the future, ARF can improve and complete the ARF Strategic Guidance for HADR in regard to civil-military cooperation with the aim of strengthening national and regional disaster response capabilities among ARF participants, as well as improving the speed and effectiveness of ARF multinational disaster relief responses.

F. Past Relevant Activities:

1. ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (ARDEX) implemented on an annual basis (2005-2008) and bi-annual basis (2013 onwards);
2. Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Operations (SASOP);
3. ARF Strategic Guidance on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief;
4. IDRL "Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance" developed by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement;
5. ARF Workshop on Disaster Relief and Emergency Response (Beijing, Yunnan, 23-27 November, 2014).

PRIORITY AREA 3:
PROMOTE INTEROPERABILITY AND COORDINATION IN HADR OPERATION

A. Scope

Similar regional initiatives are being implemented within several ASEAN Sectoral bodies, such as the ACDM, as well as other related mechanisms such as ADMM-Plus and EAS. This priority area should focus on facilitating synergy between these initiatives and those of the ARF to minimize duplication of efforts.

The ARF should take advantage of the participation of military and defense departments to promote civil-military cooperation and coordination. Specific activities involving military assets and capabilities can be carried out in this priority area, such as the ARF DiREx. The outcomes of these exercises should also be able to address gaps and bottlenecks in HADR operations, and promote interoperability and civil-military coordination among the ARF participants, as well as relevant ASEAN mechanisms, such as the AHA Centre and the ACMM in HADR operations.

B. Potential Project Themes (include, but are not limited to)

1. Identifying and understanding key elements of the smooth progress of civil-military cooperation and coordination, such as organization, mechanism, procedures and laws;
2. Promoting civil-military consultation, coordination and dialogues between ARF, the EAS, ADMM, ADMM-Plus, ACDM, and relevant HADR parties, which include AHA Centre and UNOCHA to set policy directions and methods to strengthen civil- military cooperation and coordination in HADR;
3. Conducting tabletop exercises (TTX), simulation exercises, assessments and emergency rescue training activities to improve the disaster preparedness and response capability of the ARF participants, as well as further enhance interoperability and coordination;
4. Synchronising outputs of ARDEX and ARF DiREx to ensure synergy between ASEAN and ARF mechanisms;
5. Reviewing the outcomes of the ARF DiREx in the annual ISM DR and other relevant forums; discussing the future direction to ensure practical and operational exercise by pursuing possible synergy with other HADR parties;
6. Studying the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), which includes coordination among different SOPs;
7. Strengthening urban search and rescue coordination capabilities by participating in Asia-Pacific earthquake emergency exercises;
8. Integrating gender perspective and promoting gender equality in the promotion of civil-military cooperation and coordination;
9. Promoting standard guidelines and /or work manual for operation of safety centers functions such as medical assistance and healthcare in safety centers including providing urgent medical care, first aid and emergency surgeries prevention of disease outbreak;
10. Exchanging technical know-how and best practices to promote low-cost climate resilient shelter and housing and providing technical training and guidance;
11. Integrating risk transfer strategies with relief services policies to reduce government expenditure on relief services.

C. Leading country (to be determined)

D. Proposed projects (to be determined)

1. Support experience sharing from other ASEAN-led mechanisms on HADR.
2. Support other civil-military coordination dialogues or training programs within the region which relate to HADR operations.
3. Support AHA Centre initiatives such as ERAT and multilateral AMS civil-military coordination training on HADR operations.

E. References

1. ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2021-2025.
2. The 19th and 20th ASEAN Summits, and First Meeting of Conference of the Parties (COP) of AADMER: AADMER should remain as the main regional policy backbone and coordinating platform for disaster management in ASEAN, and for other agencies and mechanisms relate to disaster management in ASEAN, including those under ASEAN+1, ASEAN+3, EAS, ARF, ADMM and ADMM Plus, and synchronize their policies using AADMER as the common platform to ensure the principles of ASEAN Centrality.
3. "Hanoi Action Plan to Implement the Vision Statement of the ASEAN Regional Forum"
 - a. The ARF aims to coordinate regional cooperation in Disaster Relief/Management and strengthen the interoperability of civil-military relief operations.
 - b. 1.3. Support civil-military coordination that enhances regional capabilities to provide effective and timely responses to major natural disasters, including regular exercises commensurate with the capacity of ARF Participants.
4. ARF Strategic Guidance on Humanitarian Assistance for Disaster Relief (HADR).
5. ARF Seminar on Civil-Military Operations (Makati City, September 2005).
 - a. Standardize operating principles/procedures for use of both civilian and military disaster relief officials and materials within ARF participants, such as visa, diplomatic permits, landing permits, etc;
 - b. ARF participants could establish a registration procedure for relevant NGO participants to minimize confusion, duplication, etc.
6. The 6th ARF ISM-DR (Qingdao, September 2006) recognized the urgency of initiating the ARF regional cooperation on disaster relief, and agreed that the ARF participants could identify relevant priority areas for cooperation, such as civil-military coordination, and the modality of cooperation should complement rather than duplicate the existing regional arrangements.

7. The 2nd ARF Seminar on Laws and Regulation on the Participation in International Disaster Relief by Armed Forces (Beijing, August 2010). Laws and regulations on HADR by armed forces should cover six aspects: legal norms of conduct on the subject, activity, procedure, legal liability, coordination issues, and the safety and security of the troops involved in HADR operations.
8. The 3rd ARF Seminar on Laws and Regulation on the Participation in International Disaster Relief by Armed Forces (Beijing, June 2012).
9. The 13th ARF Ministerial Meeting (Kuala Lumpur, July 2006). The ARF Statement on Disaster Relief and Emergency Response calls for the formulation of ARF General Guidelines on disaster management and emergency response for civilian and military personnel within ARF participants.

F. Past Relevant Activities:

1. ARF Workshop on Civil-Military Operations (Makati City, September 2005).
2. The 1st Non-Traditional Security Workshop within ASEAN Defense Establishments and Civil Society Organizations (CSO): Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), (Bangkok, June 2009).
3. The 1st Workshop on the Use of ASEAN Military Assets and Capacities in HADR (Jakarta, October 2009).
4. The 2nd Non-Traditional Security Workshop within ASEAN Defense Establishments and Civil Society Organizations (CSO): Disaster Management, (Bangkok, June 2010).
5. The 3rd Non-Traditional Security Workshop within ASEAN Defense Establishments and Civil Society Organizations (CSO): Table-Top Exercise on Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (Bangkok, September 2011).
6. ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (Manado, Indonesia, March 2011).
7. The 2nd Workshop on the Use of ASEAN Military Assets and Capacities in HADR (Jakarta, March 2011).
8. ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (Indonesia, 15-19 March, 2011).
9. ARDEX 2005-2008 in Malaysia, Cambodia, Singapore and Thailand (ARDEX 2009 in the Philippines and ARDEX 2010 in Indonesia were cancelled in view of actual disasters in the host countries).
10. ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (Thailand, May 2013).
11. ASEAN Leader's Declaration on Enhancing Cooperation in Disaster Management (Seri Begawan, October 2013): Designate ACDM as the driver of maintaining ASEAN's Centrality in HADR efforts, and established a Joint Task Force.
12. ARF Multi-year Strategic Exercise Plan Workshop (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 7-8 April 2015).

13. ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (Kedah, Malaysia, May 2015).
14. ASEAN Military Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Workshop (Thailand, August 2015).
15. The 27th ACDM Meeting and the 4th Joint Task Force Meeting: to Promote Synergy with other relevant on HADR (Phnom Penh, December 2015). Cambodia agreed to test the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on Facilitation and Utilization of Military Assets for HADR submitted by the ASEAN Defense Senior Officials Meeting (ADSOM) to be included as SASOP Chapter VI.
16. ARF Workshop on Urban Emergency Rescue (Shanghai, China the first half of 2016).
17. The 5th meeting of the ASEAN Civil-Military Coordination Technical Working Group (Singapore, September 2016): Promote "One ASEAN, One Response" and strengthen ASEAN civil-military coordination.
18. ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise (Seri Begawan, Brunei, November 2016).
19. Meetings on the ASEAN Military Ready Group on HADR (TOR Military Representative at AHA Centre and SOP AMRG on HADR) (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 8-9 May 2017 and 9-11 August 2017).
20. The 10th ADMM-Plus EWG on HADR (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, May 2017); the 11th ADMM-Plus EWG on HADR (September 2017); the 12th ADMM-Plus EWG on HADR (Hawaii, USA, 31 January - 2 February 2018).
21. The 2nd ARF Training Course on Urban Search and Rescue (Singapore, 19-21 November 2018).
22. Workshop on Global Multi-Hazard Early Warning Capacity Development in Asian Region (Haikou, China, 18-19 November 2019).
23. ARF Enhancement Training on USAR Capacity Building and Comprehensive USAR Drill (Beijing & Shanghai, China, 6-14 January, 2020).
24. ARF Enhancement Training on Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Capacity Building and Comprehensive USAR Drill (videoconference, 15 – 24 July 2021).
25. ARF Earthquake Response Exercise on Urban Search and Rescue, (videoconference, 22-24 June 2022).
26. 5th ARF Workshop on Urban Search and Rescue (videoconference, 21 – 25 November 2022).