



## Background

In September 2016, the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Leaders signed the Declaration on One ASEAN, One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disaster as One in the Region and Outside the Region. The Declaration affirms the AHA Centre (ASEAN Coordination Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management) as the primary regional coordinating agency on disaster management and emergency response in ASEAN. In an effort to operationalize the One ASEAN One Response vision, the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) has endorsed the ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan (AJDRP) in October 2016.

## AJDRP Workshops

Three workshops have been conducted in support of the development and implementation of the AJDRP. The workshops were held in the Philippines, Myanmar, and Indonesia. The plan lays out ASEAN's mechanisms, standby arrangements and procedures for disaster response. It also identifies the most likely scenario that ASEAN Member States (AMS) will respond to within ASEAN. The goal of the workshops, was to review the AJDRP on each of the three likely scenarios and identify the key gaps in each of the country specific plans for AMS to fill.

## ARDEX 2018

The ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise 2018 (ARDEX-18), will be held this November. The host nation in 2018 will be Indonesia, and the main effort will be led by their National Agency for Disaster Management (BNPB). ARDEX-18 is a full scale simulation exercise that will test, practice, review, and evaluate the ASEAN's emergency response and disaster management mechanisms. The Initial Planning Conference for ARDEX-18 was held in March 2018, in Indonesia. The collaboration and lessons learned from the three workshops are key to the success of ARDEX-18.



## Objectives of the AJDRP

- Increasing the **speed** of the ASEAN response by supporting ASEAN Member States in making timely and informed decisions
- Expanding the **scale** of the ASEAN response by strengthening the ASEAN Standby Arrangements
- Enhancing the **solidarity** of the ASEAN response by strengthening coordination and cooperation among ASEAN Member States, ASEAN partners, and other humanitarian actors'



ONE ASEAN ONE RESPONSE

## Philippines

The first National Workshop for the Development of the ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan was held in the Philippines in October 2017. The workshop focused on the effects and response of a potential 7.2 M earthquake in Metro Manila. The Philippines has an increased vulnerability to natural hazards; this is attributed to the nation's geographic position between two tectonic plates (Eurasian and Pacific). The country is most frequently struck by typhoons to typhoons; however, volcanoes, floods, landslides, earthquakes, droughts, and tsunamis also pose serious risks. The workshop in the Philippines was attended by various government organizations, to include, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Interior and Local government (DILG), the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), the Philippines National Police (PNP), the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Philippine Red Cross (PRC), and the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF). Also in attendance were nine ASEAN embassies based in Manila.

### Key Points for the Philippines

- The workshop identified if certain gaps could be supported by assets and capacity of the AHA Center or other ASEAN partner nations under the 'One ASEAN, One Response' vision;
- This workshop was designed to address support from the Philippine government, as well as support from other ASEAN countries;
- The identification of gaps, such as the need for more urban search and rescue capabilities and a surge in structural assessment capabilities, was imperative to the outcome of the workshop;
- The MMDA continues to develop their disaster response plan by involving various stakeholders; and
- The MMDA plan focuses on four strategies: preparedness activities, pre-deployment of resources, prioritization of response clusters, and partnership with the petroleum industry to ensure continuity of fuel supply.<sup>2</sup>

## Myanmar

The second National Workshop for the Development of the ASEAN Regional Contingency Plan was held in Myanmar in December 2017. The focus of this workshop was a large scale cyclone in Myanmar. Myanmar is affected by many natural hazards including destructive earthquakes, cyclones, flooding, landslides, and periodic droughts. In the last 10 years, Myanmar has been impacted by two major earthquakes, three severe cyclones, floods, and other smaller-scale hazards.<sup>3</sup> The workshop was attended by 30 participants, including policy makers, disaster managers, and military counterparts.

### Key Points for Myanmar

- The workshop resulted in the first National Contingency Plan (NCP) in Myanmar that can be supported by the AHA Centre and partners under the AJDRP framework;
- UNOCHA, in collaboration with the Government of Myanmar, has identified nine possible hazards and produced two contingency plans for two scenarios: Mandalay Earthquake and Rakhine cyclone.; and
- In Myanmar, 73 percent of disaster are caused by fires however earthquake, cyclones, and floods have the most critical impacts.

## Indonesia

The third and final National Workshop for the Development of the ASEAN Regional Contingency Plan was held in Indonesia in March 2018. The scenario is a large scale earthquake triggering tsunami and then followed by secondary hazard, which is industrial accidents, which may need HAZMAT handling. Therefore, there are three hazards that need to be anticipated: earthquake, tsunami, and industrial disaster. The workshop was attended by the BNPB, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Immigration, Ministry of Defense, Indonesian Police Department, Indonesian Customs, the U.S. Forest Service (Indonesian Liaison), and USAID Indonesia.

### Key Points for Indonesia

- HAZMAT is an important issue to focus on as well as continuing to look at the big picture;
- Interagency and private sector collaboration is critical in the initial phase of a disaster;
- Finding the gaps in the national response is crucial; this is key to having a needs-based response;
- Specific mechanisms were agreed upon to ensure speed of humanitarian assistance response.

<sup>1</sup> AHA Center. 2017. ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan.

<sup>2</sup> UNFPA. Philippines. Emergencies. <http://philippines.unfpa.org/en/node/15308>

<sup>3</sup> Reliefweb. 2016. Myanmar: Natural disaster risks and past events.

