

ASEAN Regional Forum

Work Plan for Disaster Relief

2015-2017



ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM 

Promoting peace and security through dialogue and cooperation in the Asia Pacific.

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Glossary of Acronyms

AADMER	ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response
ACDM	ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management
ADMM	ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting
ADMM-Plus	ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus Eight
ADPC	Asian Disaster Preparedness Center
ADRC	Asian Disaster Reduction Center
AHA	ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Center
APC MADRO	Asia-Pacific Conference on Military Assistance to Disaster Relief Operations
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ARDEX	ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercise
ARF	ASEAN Regional Forum
ARPDM	ASEAN Regional Programme on Disaster Management
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CMCS	Civil Military Coordination Section
CoE-DMHA	(US) Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (Hawai'i)
DR	Disaster Relief
EAS	East Asia Summit
ERAT	ASEAN Emergency Rapid Assessment Team
GLIDE	Global Unique Disaster Identifier
HADR	Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
INSARAG	International Search and Rescue Advisory Group
ISG	Inter-Sessional Support Group
ISM	Inter-Sessional Meeting
ISM-DR	Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief
KLAP	Kuala Lumpur Action Plan
MPAT	Multinational Planning Augmentation Team
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
OSADI	Online Southeast Asia Disaster Inventory
RCC	Regional Consultative Committee
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SASOP	(ASEAN) Standard Operating Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response operations
SOM	Senior Officials Meeting
UN	United Nations
UNISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
USAR	Urban Search and Rescue

Context:

Disaster management issues continue to represent one of the most pressing areas for cooperation in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum (ARF) region. In part due to the dialogue within ARF, a consensus has emerged on the need to better mitigate, manage and respond to disasters. An increasing number of international and regional mechanisms are being developed to more effectively respond to and prevent disasters.

The 15th ARF Ministerial Meeting in Singapore in July 2008, tasked the then-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 or sub-regional training for disaster preparedness. The 2009-2011 Work Plan was adopted at the 16th ARF Ministerial Meeting in Thailand in July 2009.

The Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ARF Vision Statement, adopted at the 17th ARF in July 2010, contains policy guidance for the ARF to develop and implement concrete and practical actions, including work plans under ARF areas of cooperation. Under the ARF disaster relief framework in the 2010 Hanoi Plan of Action, ARF aims to harmonize regional cooperation in disaster relief/management and strengthen the interoperability of civilian and military relief operations.

In the course of the 11th ARF ISM on Disaster Relief (ISM-DR) in Brisbane, Australia, Indonesia and Australia (as Co-Chairs) agreed to update and revise the ARF Disaster Relief Work Plan¹ for 2012-2014. This Plan covered activities relevant to early stages of the disaster management cycle (risk assessment, monitoring, early warning, rapid deployment and acceptance of assistance) as well as interoperability and coordination in disaster relief operations. The Work Plan also took concrete steps to better synergize with other regional activities and agreements (such as AADMER – the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response).

At the 13th ARF ISM on Disaster Relief in Chengdu in February 2014, the participants shared lessons learned from the international response to the Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines in 2013 and other disaster relief operations in the region, and discussed future direction of international cooperation on HADR. The meeting reached strong consensus on the necessity of more robust and efficient cooperation on HADR in the Asia-Pacific region.

Furthermore, at the 21st ARF Ministerial Meeting, the Ministers stressed that civil-military cooperation and coordination were crucial for effective disaster relief and response and supported practical engagement among military and other agencies through the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (ARF DiREx). In this regard, the Ministers welcomed discussions on enhancing practical cooperation and promoting more integrated coordination and synergies in HADR among ASEAN related mechanisms, in particular, ADMM/ADMM-Plus, ARF, EAS and ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM).

Upon the overall outcomes of recent discussions and activities on HADR under the ARF

¹ Any reference to “Work Plan” in the document refers to the Disaster Relief Work Plan and associated Implementation Annex.

framework and other regional mechanism, the 14th ARF ISM on Disaster Relief in Tokyo in February 2015, agreed on pursuing more practical and operational regional cooperation on HADR based on the existing priority areas of the ARF Work Plan for DR. In particular, the Meeting emphasized its intention to promote civil-military coordination, synergy among the regional frameworks and mechanisms, collaboration with relevant international bodies and partnership between public and private sectors in a harmonized manner as keys to more robust HADR cooperation in the region.

Moreover, through the discussions, the participants focused on the concept of Disaster Risk Reduction in terms of minimizing damage to people and facilities, and leading to effective disaster relief operations in the aftermath of disasters. In this regard, the Meeting noted the needs of strengthening capacities of diverse stakeholders including local government and community as well as of promoting international cooperation and enhancing capacity of central government.

The Meeting noted that it may review the ARF Work Plan and revise it if necessary, even before it expires, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction adopted at the “Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction” (WCDRR) in Sendai in March 2015, and the AADMER Work Programme to be revised in 2015.

Objectives of the Work Plan:

This Work Plan updates the 2012 – 2014 ARF Disaster Relief Work Plan for 2015-2017 by drawing on experiences of ARF participants and receiving guidance from ARF documents including the *2010 Hanoi Plan of Action*, the *ARF Statement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response*, the *General Guidelines on Disaster Relief Cooperation* and the *Strategic Guidance for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)*.

The key objective is to ensure long-term coordination and comprehensive planning continues to:

- assist in the coordination of regional and/or sub-regional capacity building exercises and trainings for disaster preparedness, risk reduction and response;
- capture and build on shared experiences 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 international initiatives; and
- strengthen existing government to government, regional and global disaster management networks.

Framework of the Work Plan:

This 2015-2017 DR Work Plan identifies current Priority Areas for ARF disaster management efforts and looks to distinguish ARF’s role in the context of other regional efforts. While there are other important aspects of international disaster relief cooperation, ARF should continue to focus its own work in areas where it can add value given its geographic focus, participation, and past work.

The ARF DR Work Plan is comprised of a concept paper and implementation annex. The concept paper components are:

- Context
- Objectives
- Framework
- Leadership, Management and Funding Structure
- Relationship to Other Regional/International Efforts
- Priority Areas
- Project Types.

The implementation annex is the implementation plan for each of the Priority Areas. It is organized by Priority Area and each contains the following components:

- Scope
- Potential project themes
- Lead countries
- Proposed projects
- References
- Past relevant activities.

In line with previous practice, the Implementation Annex will continue to be considered a “living document” and is expected to change with the addition and completion of projects. Responsibility for updating and maintaining the Implementation Annex will continue to lie with the ISM DR Co-Chairs, Lead Countries, and the ARF Unit.

Leadership, Management and Funding Structure:

Lead Countries will be composed of one ASEAN and one non-ASEAN country, supported by the ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat. Lead Countries will be responsible for briefly updating each ARF Inter-Sessional Support Group (ISG), Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), and annual 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 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. All ARF participants are encouraged to submit appropriate project proposals to contribute to the development of functional cooperation in line with the Priority Areas of this Work Plan. In this regard, 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 are encouraged to indicate linkages, as appropriate, between their projects and Priority Areas of the Work Plan. Similar to Lead Countries, activities will have one ASEAN and one non-ASEAN Co-Sponsor associated with them. 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.

ISM DR Co-Chairs should also be consulted in the development of Priority Area projects. In this regard, ISM DR Co-Chairs should encourage ARF participants to organize ARF official events in line with Priority Areas of this Work Plan. 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.

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:

- provide administrative and technical support to ISM DR and appropriate project meetings
- liaise regularly with Lead Countries to ensure adequate coordination and implementation of Work Plan requirements
- serve as a depository of incoming project proposals for countries
- 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
- coordinate and de-conflict ARF projects, as appropriate with Lead Countries, Co-Sponsors, training centers and other regional/international organizations.

Lead Countries will be responsible for:

- liaising with the ARF Unit and ISM DR Co-Chairs on the coordination and implementation of Work Plan requirements
- updating the ARF Unit and ISM DR Co-Chairs on Work Plan contributions
- working with the ARF Unit to de-conflict projects, as appropriate.

During the annual ISM DR, the Work Plan will be reviewed in depth every two (2) years 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.

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 sponsoring ARF members unless noted otherwise. If necessary, sponsoring nations may seek assistance from donor nations or outside organizations.

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 are not limited to, the initiatives of the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM), the Asia-Pacific Economic

Cooperation (APEC) Emergency Preparedness Working Group, the ASEAN Coordination Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Disaster Management Framework, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), the East Asia Summit (EAS), the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) and the ADMM-Plus, and the 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. Another important mechanism is the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER).

Through this Work Plan, the following actions will be taken to ensure activities are complimentary to and in coordination with other regional and international efforts.

- 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.
- The participation, where possible, of the ARF Unit and ISM DR Co-chairs in relevant meetings of other forums.
- If possible, back-to-back meetings of the ISM on DR with the ADMM-Plus experts' working group on HADR.
- Consistent sharing of organization reports, strategies, and Work Plans, etc. by ARF with other organizations.
- Consultation by Lead Countries, the ARF Unit, and ISM DR Co-Chairs with representatives of other forums.
- Once approved by ARF Ministers, publication of the Disaster Relief Work Plans on ARF and ASEAN public websites.

Priority Areas:

Priority Areas should be relevant and feasible. The Priority Areas and Work Plan should be reviewed for relevance, updates, and changes every two years at the ISM on Disaster Relief.

The ARF shall focus on Priority Areas that promote:

- (i) networking and information sharing to enhance the capacity of ARF participants for Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Response, particularly in the areas of risk assessment, monitoring, early warning and reconstruction
- (ii) rapid assessment, deployment and acceptance of support, and,
- (iii) interoperability and coordination in disaster relief operations including enhancing civil-military coordination and synergy among regional frameworks and international bodies.

Project Types:

Projects can take a variety of forms to fit the particular assistance needs and nature of the Priority Area. As appropriate, projects can be single events or a series of activities with increasing complexity. Some examples include, but are not limited to:

- *Capacity-building workshops* that share information on experiences and bring in government, private sector, community and other relevant experts to brief, train, and/or develop best practices.
- *ARF 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 countries. The ARF Pilot Project should be within the scope of agreed Priority Areas and could be implemented by qualified government agencies in cooperation with private sector agencies.
- *Multilateral tabletop or field exercises* to test the implementation of international agreements, regional arrangements, or modes of communication among ARF and sub-regional participants. Future exercises should take into account not only capacity-building and technical support needs, but also modes of communication and information-sharing among exercise participants.

Implementation Annex 2015 – 2017

RATIONALE/STRATEGY:

The preceding ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief (DR) Implementation Annex covered the period 2012 – 2014. Its outcome was reviewed by the 14th ARF ISM on DR at its Meeting held in Tokyo, Japan on 12-13 February 2015 based on the overall outcomes of recent discussions and activities on HADR under the ARF framework and the other regional mechanism. The meeting decided on pursuing more practical and operational regional cooperation on HADR based on the current priorities areas of the ARF Work Plan for DR. The ARF ISM on DR areas of cooperation in disaster management will focus more closely on activities that contribute to greater collective coordination and collaboration among ARF participants in disaster relief, preparedness and response.

The priority areas of this Work Plan on DR relate to those in the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2010-2015, particularly the Strategic Component on Preparedness and Response. Activities implemented under the Work Plan will, in most cases, assist in achieving the outputs of the AADMER Work Programme and the goals of the AADMER. However, given the ARF's broader membership (including 17 non-ASEAN participants as well as the 10 ASEAN participants), projects that do not directly contribute to the AADMER Work Program may still be considered.

Building on the preparedness and response activities that are generated by the AADMER Work Programme and other ASEAN-related mechanisms including the EAS and ARF, the activities for the 2012-2014 Implementation Annex will focus on the need to enhance the region's capacity to better collaborate and coordinate in multi-country operations for disaster relief and response.

The priority areas for the Work Plan on DR will, therefore, be as follows: i) Promote networking and information sharing to enhance the capacity of ARF participants for Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Response, particularly in the area of risk assessment, monitoring, early warning and reconstruction; ii) Promote rapid deployment and acceptance of assistance in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operations; iii) Promote interoperability and coordination in HADR operations.

As the ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Dialogue Partners are in most cases members of, or participants in, other ASEAN-related mechanisms such as ASEAN Plus Three, ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus), and East Asia Summit (EAS), activities carried out under the Work Plan on DR will take cognizance of disaster relief, preparedness and response related activities in these ASEAN-related mechanisms. They may also take account of other regional activities (for example, by the United Nations agencies or other regional organisations).

PRIORITY AREA 1: Promote Networking and Information Sharing to Enhance the Capacity of ARF Participants for Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Response, Particularly in the Areas of Risk Assessment, Monitoring, Early Warning and Reconstruction

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 to improving capacities in Disaster Risk Reduction as well as disaster response. Existing mechanisms/systems, in particular, the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), should be further utilised 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.

Risk assessment, early warning and monitoring (RAEWM) have been identified as priority areas in the first ARF Work Plan on Disaster Relief. However, there have been limited initiatives undertaken by the ARF on these issues. Given the importance of RAEWM in disaster preparedness, the ARF should further develop activities to increase the capacity of the participants in this area.

Moreover, in addition to disaster preparedness to minimize loss of life and prosperity, post-disaster response including reconstruction is equally crucial in restoring normal life of people in affected areas. Therefore, the ARF should also develop activities to enhance the capacity of the participants in this area.

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

1. Sharing of best practices among ARF participants to enhance the capacity of Disaster Risk Reduction.
2. Stocktaking national Risk Assessment, Early Warning and Monitoring (RAEWM) capacities and mechanisms of ARF participants;
3. Strengthening the capacity of ARF participants through capacity building in the area of risk assessment, monitoring and early warning, and reconstruction;
4. Developing or strengthening existing mechanisms/systems (such as the AHA Centre) and exploring networking among the systems to promote sharing of real-time information among ARF participants in times of disaster emergencies.

C. Lead Countries:

D. Proposed Projects *(to be proposed as part of implementation of this Work Plan)*

1. ARF Workshop on Urban Emergency Rescue, first half of 2016, in Shanghai, China

E. References - AADMER/AADMER Work Programme/ARF:

1. AADMER WP RAEWM Output 1.8: Discussion to determine: What constraints, if any, should be placed on the sharing of national and regional risk assessment data and outputs?
2. AADMER WP RAEWM Output 4.4: Develop protocols and guidelines for the dissemination of regional risk assessment outputs.
3. AADMER WP Output 5: ASEAN Standby Arrangements developed and regularly updated.
4. 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.
5. 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 (i) 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.
6. 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 on 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 UNISDR 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. ARF Workshop on Disaster Relief and Emergency Response on 23-27 November 2014, in Beijing and Yunnan, China

PRIORITY AREA 2: Promote International Cooperation and Assistance in HADR Operations

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/licences to assist in disasters are needed. Customs clearance, immigration and quarantine procedures for bringing in relief supplies and personnel must be prepared. Privileges and immunities for assisting countries' personnel and their assets should be in place.

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 should also be used as reference.

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.

C. Lead Countries:

D. Proposed Projects *(to be proposed as part of implementation of this Work Plan):*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

E. References - AADMER/AADMER Work Programme/ARF:

1. AADMER WP Output 2: SASOP is fully developed, institutionalised and disseminated.
2. AADMER WP Output 5: ASEAN Standby Arrangements developed and regularly updated
3. AADMER WP Output 7: Procedures of entry of international assistance reviewed, and gaps identified.
4. AADMER WP Output 11: Response options to help define possible ASEAN's response options and triggers for response and establish clear decision-making processes
5. AADMER WP Output 16: SOPs and/or mechanisms for coordination with other humanitarian actors developed.
6. 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.
7. 10th ARF ISM-DR, Bangkok 2-3 September 2010
Develop synergies, share lessons learnt, and ultimately institutionalise coordination between ARDEX and the ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (ARF DiREx).
8. 2nd ARF Seminar on Laws and Regulation on the Participation in International Disaster Relief by Armed Forces, Beijing, 30-31 August 2010
In the future, ARF participants can improve and complete the ARF Strategic Guidance for HADR in regards 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 Voluntary Demonstration of Response (VDR) on 4-8 May 2009 in Central Luzon, the Philippines;
4. ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (ARF DiREx 2011) on 15-19 March 2011 in Manado, Indonesia;
5. ARF Strategic Guidance on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief;
6. ARF Voluntary Model Arrangement on the Use of Foreign Military and Civil Defense Assets (MCDA) in Disaster Relief;

7. 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.

PRIORITY AREA 3: Promote Interoperability and Coordination in HADR Operations

A. Scope:

Current disaster response efforts in the region are operating independently of each other. Cognizant of similar regional initiatives being implemented in 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 promoting synergy between these initiatives with those of the ARF in view of minimising duplication of efforts.

The ARF should take advantage of the participation of the military and defence sector in the forum to promote civil-military cooperation and coordination. Concrete and practical activities involving military assets and capabilities such as the ARF DiREx could be pursued in this priority area. Combining the ARF DiREx with ARDEX and/or relevant exercises under the ADMM-Plus could be considered. The outcomes of these exercises should also be able to address the gaps and bottlenecks in HADR operations. The exercises will also promote interoperability and coordination among the ARF participating countries as well as with related ASEAN mechanisms, such as the AHA Centre, in HADR operations.

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

1. Identifying and understanding key organizational, institutional, procedural and legal elements needed for successful civil – military cooperation and coordination;
2. Promoting civil-military consultations 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 determine how to achieve strengthened civil – military cooperation and coordination in HADR;
3. Conducting table top exercises (TTX), simulation exercises, assessments and other capacity building activities to increase preparedness and response capacity of the ARF participating countries as well as further enhance interoperability and coordination;
4. Synchronising outputs of ARDEX and ARF DiREx to ensure synergy and coordination between ASEAN and ARF mechanisms;
5. Reviewing outcomes of ARF DiREx in the annual ISM DR and other relevant forums as well as discussing its future direction to ensure practical and operational exercise through pursuing possible synergy with other HADR parties by the exercise;
6. Studying about Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) including harmonisation of SOPs, which have been discussed in regional frameworks and international bodies;

C. Lead Countries:

Malaysia and the US

D. Proposed Projects (*to be proposed as part of implementation of this Work Plan*):

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

E. References - AADMER/AADMER Work Programme/ARF:

1. AADMER WP P&R Output 3: Civil-military relations with respect to improving ASEAN disaster response enhanced.
2. AADMER WP P&R Output 7, Activity 7.6: Conduct exercises (such as table-top etc) or other assessments to review the efficiency of procedures of Member States (possibly as part of ARDEX).
3. 19th and 20th ASEAN Summits, and First Meeting of Conference of the Parties (COP) to AADMER: AADMER should remain as the main regional policy backbone and coordinating platform for disaster management in ASEAN, and for other sectors and mechanisms related to disaster management in ASEAN, including those under ASEAN+1, ASEAN+3, EAS, ARF, ADMM and ADMM Plus, to synchronise their policies using AADMER as the common platform to ensure the principles of ASEAN Centrality.
4. Hanoi Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN Regional Forum Vision Statement
 - a. By 2020, ARF aims to harmonize regional cooperation in Disaster Relief/Management and strengthen the interoperability of civilian and military relief operations.
 - b. 1.3. Support civil-military coordination that enhances regional capacity to provide effective and timely responses to major natural disasters, including through the holding of exercises on a regular basis commensurate with the capacity of ARF Participants.
5. ARF Strategic Guidance on Humanitarian Assistance for Disaster Relief (HADR)
6. ARF Workshop on Civil Military Operation, Makati City, 12-13 September 2005
 - a. Standardize operating principles/procedures for use of both civilian and military disaster relief workers and materials within ARF participants i.e. visa, diplomatic clearance, landing permits;
 - b. ARF participants could establish a registration procedure for incoming NGOs to minimize confusion, duplication, etc.
7. 6th ARF ISM-DR, Qingdao, 18-20 September 2006

Recognized the urgency of starting the ARF regional cooperation on disaster relief, and agreed that the ARF participants could identify some priority areas for cooperation, such as civil-military coordination, and the modality of cooperation should complement rather than duplicate the existing regional arrangements.
8. 2nd ARF Seminar on Laws and Regulation on the Participation in International Disaster Relief by Armed Forces, Beijing, 30-31 August 2010

Laws and regulations on HADR by armed forces should touch upon 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.
9. 3rd ARF Seminar on Laws and Regulation on the Participation in International Disaster Relief by Armed Forces, Beijing, 11-12 June 2012

10. 13th ARF in Kuala Lumpur on 28 July 2006

The ARF Statement on Disaster Relief and Emergency Response called for, among others, the development of ARF general guidelines on disaster management and emergency response for the use of both civilian and military personnel within the ARF participating countries.

F. Past Relevant Activities:

1. ARF Workshop on Civil Military Operation, Makati City, 12-13 September 2005;
2. 1st Workshop on ASEAN Defence Establishments and Civil Society Organisations (CSO) on Non-Traditional Security (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief), Bangkok, 8-9 June 2009;
3. 2nd Workshop on ASEAN Defence Establishments and Civil Society Organisations (CSO) on Non-Traditional Security (Disaster Management), Bangkok, 28-29 June 2010;
4. 3rd Workshop on ASEAN Defence Establishments and Civil Society Organisations (CSO) on Non-Traditional Security: Table-Top Exercise on Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance, Bangkok, 7-9 September 2011;
5. ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (ARF DiREx 2011) on 15-19 March 2011 in Manado, Indonesia;
6. 1st Workshop on the Use of ASEAN Military Assets and Capacities in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, Jakarta, 6-8 October 2009;
7. 2nd Workshop on the Use of ASEAN Military Assets and Capacities in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, Jakarta, 29 March 2011;
8. 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).
9. ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (ARF DiREx 2013) on 7-11 May 2013 in Cha-Am, Thailand
10. ASEAN Leader's Declaration on Enhancing Cooperation in Disaster management, Bandar Seri Begawan, October 2013: Designating ACDM as the driver in the process to maintain ASEAN's Centrality in HA/DR efforts, and tasking the Formation of a Joint Task Force.
11. ARF Multi-year Strategic Exercise Plan Workshop on 7-8 April in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia
12. ARF Disaster Relief Exercise (ARF DiREx 2015) on 24-28 May 2015 in Kedah Malaysia
