

Summary of Breakout Discussions in the INSARAG AEME Meeting 2017

1. IER Pre-Greening Arrangements Proposals

Facilitated by: Arno Umfaher (Austria) and Sabir Ahmadov (Azerbaijan)

Discussion:

- IER Pre-Greening procedures depend on a Chief Classifier
- The Working Group supports the Pre-Greening (until arrival in an affected country (chapter 9)), however, classifiers can check Pre-Greened items during an exercise
- A separate IER checklist should be developed. More emphasis should be put on management and coordination (UC) and not on operational skills (which the teams need to demonstrate as well)
- Integration of IER in MODEX exercises: important for the organizers to know what IER is about and for an INSARAG representative to be at all planning meetings to ensure that IER runs smoothly.

2. International Light Teams- Quality Assurance

Facilitators: Arjam Stam (the Netherlands), Cem Behar (Turkey), Christian Baroux (France)

Discussion:

- Completely different opinions and feedback from the AEME region countries
- Concept should be needs-driven
- Suggested path: First responder – National Capacity – National Accreditation – Cross boarding. Upon completion of all steps, proceed to International Deployment
- Current International Light Standard is well accepted
- 12-hour shifts of Light Teams will require more coordination capacity in UC
- Heavy and Medium USAR Teams may benefit from Light Team Standards to reconfigure themselves into a Light version
- Integration of Government Organizations + NGOs (inclusiveness)
- Two Light Teams from two different countries may form one International Light Team
- International Light Teams will add value by bringing in highly skilled team members and instructors, may build up an affected country's capacity during the mission – 'tank battalion vs. special forces unit' comparison
- There is a need for flexibility in standards
- If teams decide not to be reclassified, they may lose contact with the INSARAG community
- A medium National Team may be accredited as an international Light Team.

Feedback in the plenary:

- Find ways for heavy and light teams to support each other in the new complex crisis environment
- Integration of Light Teams will be less costly and will allow more flexibility
- Acknowledge the need to concentrate the efforts on building national capacity in the disaster prone zones as opposed to building International Light Teams (supported by several countries)
- No need to create extra dozens of classified teams since a classification gives a team a priority for an international deployment and a higher level of acceptance; affected countries do not have the capacity/systems/mechanisms to receive international assistance and to integrate national and international efforts
- Important to support Light Teams, however, only locally, otherwise there will be too many Light Teams deployed internationally
- There is space for building Light Teams; the guidelines envisage developing local capacity

- NGOs can be included and having LT standards will give an element of control over their capacity
- INSARAG Secretariat will not stop any team willing to classify; concrete standards and tools need to be developed; many light teams deployed in the aftermath of recent disasters; light teams need to be included and influenced; nomination of each team goes through a National Focal Point; the Working Group will take into account the feedback and recommendations of this meeting.

3. National Accreditation Arrangements

Facilitated by: Martin Gomez (Argentina) and Stephane Jay

Discussion:

- Confusion between IEC, NAP process and IESRP external recognition of the accreditation process; to be clarified by the INSARAG Secretariat
- Suggestion to simplify the acronyms
- Few participants have read the IESRP documents
- Governments need to be motivated and engaged to go through the national accreditation process.

Feedback in the plenary:

- Strong push from Americas earthquake prone region (with no classified teams and insufficient institutional and financial capacity) to ensure quality of domestic response; the Working Group formulated how to do a classification in the Americas' region; the teams need to integrate in national disaster response systems in the region; there is no pool of mentors, no technical knowledge to mentor and facilitate the process which should be led by governments
- A need for a mechanism to identify experts and make them available; to certify a group of specialists that governments in the region can use for domestic classification process
- Significant differences between INSARAG External Classification and National Accreditation Programme; teams that successfully completed NAP are a part of the domestic response systems (e.g. in Turkey, Ankara and Istanbul are for international deployment, they go for IEC/Rs)
- The process will differ region by region due to the differences in terms of capacity.

4. UCC and KoBo Implementation - 01012018

Facilitators: Sean Moore (United Kingdom), Peter Wolff (Germany)

UCC implementation

Discussion:

- Most teams are not currently sufficiently prepared to implement UC/KoBo
- Should the UC role be mandatory or voluntary?
 - If voluntary, can be requested to be assessed as part of IEC/R
- Can a UCC be deployed independently of its main team (self-sufficiency)
- All teams should be required to establish an RDC
- If planning to do training, be prepared to invite other teams
- Additional UC ToT courses to be delivered.

Feedback in the plenary:

- Not all teams are UC ready, there is a need for more training courses including ToT
- Information on UC should be shared more effectively
- In the past all teams were required to establish and run a preliminary OSOCC, now this can be changed to UC.

KoBo

Discussion:

- Training is required on both data collection and analysis
- Could be issues with using KoBo in certain countries (sensitivity)
- When speaking to the LEMA, brief on what KoBo is and does
- Some translation issues encountered

Feedback in the plenary:

- Becoming mandatory for all teams undergoing IEC/Rs, how will KoBo affect the outcomes of classification, if the database is not available?
- Suggestion to move to Information Management and not just focus on KoBo
- Teams need to be ready on 1 January 2018 and not by the time of their respective IEC/Rs
- Concerns that if KoBo does not work during SIMEXes, it may not work during real life emergencies
- Need to schedule training activities, incorporate KoBo into regional exercises, conduct UC training courses
- If teams are not ready, recommendations need to be developed to move forward in terms of technology
- Learning how to use KoBo could be achieved through training activities, the question is: 'is the technology stable enough?'
- Three-day practical training courses are needed to move ahead with KoBo
- There is a need to intensify the ToT programme to assist the end users of the KoBo toolbox
- KoBo is for a wider humanitarian response, in Haiti USAR teams had a lot of useful information which ended nowhere; it is important to remove the mental block and accept the new technology
- Dealing with data collection involves images of people, buildings, any kind of data which can violate confidentiality and privacy; this needs to be addressed
- A dedicated specialist will deal with data protection, however, the forms will not be changed
- Translation challenges may arise in some regions (e.g. Asia-Pacific).

5. Guidelines Review Group -2020

Facilitators: Mr. Martin Evers (the Netherlands), Mr. Matthias Pfister (Switzerland)

Discussion:

Areas for improvement, topics to be added or removed:

- Vol 1: Explain the rules of the game for all players: responsibilities of donor and recipient countries, resilience, preparedness, benefits of requesting classified teams
- Vol 2: preemptive ASR1
- Vol 2C: inconsistency/lack of clarity between IEC/IER processes
- Vol 4: Forum for discussions, best practices, information, Wikinsarag, chat, this should be moderated, library of PoE's.

Proposals for translation, availability in other media platforms:

- Application for tablets, smartphones
- The text is too long, it should be more concise.