

Goal 1: Promote and support the building of effective national USAR response
“Think Global, Act Local”

Objective 1.1: Promote adoption by national governments and USAR teams of INSARAG methodology for preparedness and response and the establishment of national USAR team accreditation systems

Objective 1.2: Advocate for national and regional ownership of preparedness efforts and coordination of donor involvement, as needed, in-line with national priorities.

Objective 1.3: Actively encourage innovative approaches to strengthen national capacity building through the sharing of expertise and best practices amongst countries and organizations

Objective 1.4: Promote capacity development of national and “first” responders understanding that majority of live rescues is achieved by them.

Objective 1.5: Strengthen the collaboration and coordination with all relevant partners in preparedness for disasters.

Objective 1.6: Promote the participation and incorporation of new countries and organizations into the INSARAG network

Regional objective	Activities of the regional group	indicator	Measure unit	verification source	Goal	date	responsible	Current status / comments
1.1. Promote knowledge on the INSARAG Guidelines as internationally developed and accepted methodology	Presentation of the INSARAG guidelines to all USAR teams in the region with standardized material provided by the INSARAG Secretariat	USAR teams that have received the presentation	%	reports from the FP	80%	Dec	Focal points	Presentation available with the Secretariat
	Presentation of the added value of INSARAG to political authorities	countries and regional organisations where FPs have presented the the INSARAG methodology and added value	%	reports from the FP	80%	Dec	Focal points	
	translation of the USAR coordination manual to Spanish and its publication	published on the INSARAG website	#	www.insarag.org	1	August	Argentina	
1.2. Improve the knowledge of the capacities and the requirements of the national disaster managements systems in the area of USAR in the region	Complete the questionnaires of the regional capacity assessment of national USAR teams	completed questionnaires received by focal points	%	data base	100%	january - march	Focal points	Activity started in 2016, deadline for completing questionnaires extended to 31 March 2017
	process and analyse the completed questionnaires with the aim of having an updated regional capacity assessment document	final analysis document based on information provided by countries	#	document shared with the Regional Group	1	may	Colombia with final review by Regional Chairmanship group	
1.3. Promote and strengthen the national USAR team accreditation processes and promote a better recognition of national USAR teams within the INSARAG network	present the proposal and obtain approval by the INSARAG Steering Group	approval of the ISG	#	Chairman summary of the ISG	1	february	Colombia and Costa Rica, and Chairmanship group	approved
	create the Technical Support Group for the INSARAG External Support and Recognition process for national USAR team accreditation processes	candidates with the appropriate profile are presented, and a regional roster of experts created on the VOSOCC	#	regional roster	25	May	Secretariat and Regional Group	
	organise the initial workshop of the Technical Support Group	all members of the TSG participate and familiarize themselves with the reference guidance and agree working modalities	#	agenda and workshop report	1	june	Chile, National Accrediation working group, Secretariat	
	Implement and communicate procedures for the request for support from the TSG	communicate procedures to the Regional group and TSGs are created for each request for support	%	INSARAG website and VOSOCC	100%	ongoing	TSG and Secretariat	
1.4. Foster exchange of experiences in areas of common interest	Document good practices and lessons learnt and create a space on the INSARAG website to publish them	countries that contribute with lessons learnt	%	inclusion of good practices/lessons learnt on the platform	25%	ongoing	Focal points	Work in process, to date, 3 documents are available on www.insarag.org

Goal 2: Improve the quality and coordination of international USAR response
“Strengthening Effectiveness: As Local As Possible, As International As Necessary”

Objective 2.1: Promote the United Nations General Assembly Resolution GA 57/150 on “Strengthening the effectiveness and coordination of international urban search and rescue assistance” and continue to update, evaluate and improve INSARAG methodology to be ‘fit for purpose’.

Objective 2.2: In disaster response, actively encourage and facilitate the smooth transition from the ‘search and rescue phase’ into the ‘relief phase’ as well as greater integration with the efforts of the international humanitarian community in initial recovery efforts

Objective 2.3: Actively promote and encourage countries requesting international USAR assistance, to request for INSARAG classified teams to support initial life-saving operations

Objective 2.4: Strengthen and expand the ongoing technical partnerships established -- such as with the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) and other international and regional organizations for effective coordination in response.

Objective 2.5: INSARAG’s role contributes to the international humanitarian and Disaster Risk Reduction agenda

Objective 2.6: Strengthen INSARAG’s capacity to contribute to national and international coordination mechanisms

Regional objective	Activities of the regional group	indicator	Measure unit	verification source	Goal	date	responsible	Current status
2.1 Support interested, disaster/EQ prone countries to strengthen their capacities to receive regional/ international cooperation	Promote and support the organization of national SIMEXes using the INSARAG SIMEX methodology	quantity of national SIMEXes using the INSARAG SIMEX methodology	#	reports by focal points	2	end of year	countries	Argentina has one national SIMEX planned this year
	review of protocols for the request and receipt of international USAR teams as part of the support process to national accreditation processes	conclusions and/or recommendations presented by the TSG	%	final reports by the TSG	100%	end of year	TSG	
	Review of the Spanish translation and publishing of the new INSARAG EQ response Exercise package	publication of the package	#	www.insarag.org	1	May	Secretariat	
	organise a workshop for the planning and exercise control group with the aim to train more people to replicate the SIMEX at national level	participation of staff from key countries and organizations with the appropriate profile to plan and lead the SIMEX at national level	#	list of participants	10	Sept	tbc	
2.2. Provide recommendations to teams that have the backup and mandate to deploy internationally to pass the INSARAG External classification.	USAR teams officially preparing for the INSARAG external classification	successful classification of USAR teams	#	INSARAG directory of classified teams in the region	1	end of year	Chile and Secretariat	
2.3. Promote a structured response to emergencies by countries in accordance with the INSARAG Guidelines	Promote the use of the VOSOCC for the exchange of information in cases of emergencies	Registry of usernames by INSARAG focal points	%	VO database	100	end of year	Focal points	
	Based on the results of the regional capacity assessment, verify and clean the current inputs in the INSARAG directory	verification of the info on the directory	#	INSARAG directory	100	mid year	Secretariat	Activity pending; dependent on the progress on the regional capacity assessment
	finalise the practical guidance note to focal points on their roles and responsibilities in accordance with the INSARAG Guidelines	sending of the note	#	email and website	1	April	Secretariat with chairmanship group	draft elaborated by Colombia

2.4. Strengthen cooperation between INSARAG, the EMT initiative/ PAHO, the UNDAC team and OCHA in the region	Mutual participation of a representation in the respective INSARAG and EMT Regional Group meetings - designation of contact focal points INSARAG-EMT	designation of mutual focal points	#	list of focal points	1	April	Chairmanship group and Secretariat	
	share workplans and consider joint activities such as SIMEX, or possibly trainings or workshops	discussion between INSARAG regional chairmanship group, Secretariat, PAHO and regional EMT chairmanship group	#	summary of meeting	1	tbc	Chairmanship group and Secretariat	
	Establish links between INSARAG and EMT focal points are country and organizational level	coordination amongst focal points at country level	%	reports by focal points	80	end of year	Focal points	
2.5. Implement training on the coordination methodology, including OSOCC	organise a training of trainers on the USAR coordination, for IEC teams and teams preparing for and IEC, as well as UNDAC with USAR experience	number of participants	#	participants list	24	3-7 April	USA; Secretariat	
	organise a training of trainers on the USAR coordination, for staff from USAR response and coordination entities at national level and support mechanisms (UNDAC, INSARAG)	number of participants	#	participants list	25	tbc	[country], Secretariat	
	trained personnel organise USAR coordination courses in their own countries	number of countries	#	reports by focal points	2	end of year	countries	
	organise a regional OSOCC operations course	number of participants	#	participants list	28	tbc	Costa Rica and OCHA	
2.6 asegurar la representación de INSARAG Américas en foros y eventos regionales y globales	Active participation of the Chairmanship Group in the meeting of the MIAH (International humanitarian assistance mechanisms)	representation by the chairmanship group	#	minutes of the meeting	1	12-14 Sept	Chairmanship group & Secretariat	

GOAL 3: Improve the management and the leadership of the Regional Group

Regional objective	Activities of the regional group	indicator	Measure unit	verification source	Goal	date	responsible	Current status
3.1. Ensure leadership and coordination of the Regional Group activities	organise the Regional Group meeting	participation of countries from the Regional Group	%	Chairman summary	80%	29.11.-1.12.	Ecuador, with chairmanship group and Secretariat	
	maintain close contact between members of the Chairmanship group and organise monthly teleconferences	quantity of teleconferences	#	minutes of the teleconferences	12	ongoing	chairmanship group & Secretariat	
	Regular information exchange between members of the regional group i) Ecuador: Peru, Colombia, Chile, Bolivia, Canada, USA ii) Mexico: Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama, Cuba iii) Argentina: Paraguay, Brasil, Venezuela, Haití, Dominican Republic, Antigua & Barbuda, French Antilles iv) OCHA/Secretariat: CDEMA, CEPREDENAC, IFRC, PAHO	Contacts established through whatsapp, email or phone between members of the chairmanship group and countries under their responsibility	%	minutes of the teleconferences between the chairmanship group where they report on contacts with the countries	100%	ongoing	chairmanship group	
	ensure continuity of the Regional Group governance	nombramiento de la II Vice-presidencia para el 2018	#	Regional meeting Chairman summary	1	29.11.-1.12.	Secretariat with support from Chairmanship group	
3.2. Clear communication on the activities and priorities of the Regional Group	regular news bulletins from the Chairmanship group and the Secretariat to the Regional Group	News bulletins sent	#	emails & insarag.org	4	regularly	Chairmanship group and Secretariat	
3.3. Contribute to a better management of INSARAG globally	Suggest guidelines on the use of INSARAG logo and request the formal recognition of the logo	guidelines document and approval of logo	#	communication to the INSARAG network	2	Dec	Chairmanship group and Secretariat	
3.4. facilitate the participation of all interested countries in regional activities by promoting a financial commitment of each country for its own participation; as well as the solidarity and regional cooperation in order to support those that cannot dedicate the required resources	The countries hosting regional activities with try to cover local costs (lodging and food) leaving the responsibility to cover the international travel with participating countries/institutions	Regional activities hosted and funded by the host country	%	admin information notes for events	50	by activity	Host countries	
	Countries interested to organise INSARAG activities with the aim of strengthening their capacities, but lacking the required resources will present requests for support, and the Regional group will endeavour to support the event with the required resources	INSARAG activities supported by countries from the regional group	%	admin information notes for events	50	by activity	Host countries and donor countries	