

GLOBAL REPORTING

The year 2025 was marked by a series of events and training initiatives, in line with INSARAG's Strategic Objectives and the continued advancement of Quality Standards, Localization, and Flexible Response.

Fifteen External Classifications and Reclassifications (IEC/Rs) were achieved, as well as China's National Accreditation Process (IRNAP), supporting national and

local capacity, while ensuring interoperability and a quality-focused and coordinated response system.

The network's efforts and objectives were further advanced by the conduct of several meetings throughout the year, including the ISG, Team Leaders and Working Groups Meetings, Regional Meetings, and Training Courses in Qatar, Russian Federation, Canada,

and a recent Earthquake Response Exercise (ERE) in South Africa, fostering partnerships and collaboration to respond to emerging disaster challenges.

Looking forward to 2026, a comprehensive schedule of global events is being planned, starting with the New Year Teleconference in February, the ISG in March, and the Global Meeting in July.



PHOTOS: GEO-01 IEC; THA-01 IEC, OMA-01 IEC

GLOBAL MILESTONES IN 2025

- IEC Progress:** The INSARAG Network had the pleasure of welcoming three new teams this year, with the External Classifications of Georgia (GEO-01) and Thailand (THA-01) in November, and Oman (OMA-01) in December, leading to 60 INSARAG classified teams globally. An **INSARAG External Classification (IEC)** is a formal, internationally recognized assessment in which an urban search and rescue (USAR) team demonstrates that it meets the minimum operational, technical, and coordination standards defined in the INSARAG Guidelines. The IEC process evaluates a team's ability to rapidly deploy, operates according to INSARAG methodology, integrates with national authorities, and correctly establishes and runs coordination structures such as the RDC and UCC, ensuring they can provide effective support to an affected country. Those three new teams are a welcomed addition to the global USAR response capacity.

The INSARAG Steering Group (ISG) Meeting: The meeting held in Geneva on 25 March 2025 endorsed several key decisions, including major progress on the Governance Review with substantial completion of Annex I and II, agreement on a new ICMS funding model, the extension of the Search and Rescue in Flood Response Working Group, and the launch of the 20th Anniversary IEC/R Publication produced by Hungary to commemorate two decades of global classification efforts. The meeting also presented the timeline and process for developing the 2026–2030 INSARAG Guidelines, marking an important step toward the network's next strategic cycle. The report of the meeting can be found: [Here](#)

INSARAG EXTERNAL CLASSIFICATION/RECLASSIFICATIONS IN 2025, WE CONGRATULATE THE FOLLOWING TEAMS:

IEC

1. Georgia – GEO-01 – Light
2. Thailand – THA-01 – Medium
3. Oman – OMA-01 – Medium to Heavy

■ ■ ■ INSARAG REGIONS

IER

1. Netherlands – NED-01 – Heavy
2. France – FRA-02 – Heavy
3. Poland – POL-01 – Heavy
4. China – CHN-01 – Heavy
5. China – CHN-02 – Heavy
6. Belarus – BLR-01 – Heavy
7. Singapore – SGP-01 – Heavy
8. Ukraine – UKR-01 – Heavy
9. Australia – AUS-01 – Heavy
10. Türkiye – TUR-02 – Heavy
11. Jordan – JOR-01 – Heavy
12. Türkiye – TUR-01 – Heavy



2025 TIMELINE OF INSARAG EVENTS

- JANUARY**
 - INSARAG Leadership Course (Qatar)
 - INSARAG New Year Teleconference (Switzerland)
 - Heavy IER – NED-01
- FEBRUARY**
 - TL Meeting and Working Groups Meeting (Tunisia)
- MARCH**
 - HPNW 2025 (Switzerland)
 - AP Informal Meeting (During HNPW)
 - INSARAG Steering Group -ISG (Switzerland)
 - Quality Standards for Effective Response, Saving Lives: INSARAG and WHO EMT
 - Heavy IER – FR-02

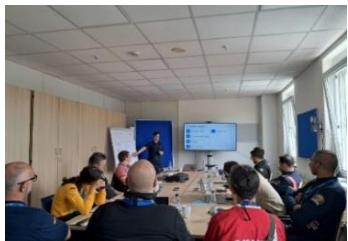
- APRIL**
 - ICMS Course (Russia)
 - Heavy IER – POL-01
 - IRNAP Course (Canada)
- MAY**
 - Heavy IER – CHN-01
 - Heavy IER – CHN-02
- AUGUST**
 - Heavy IER – UKR-01
 - Heavy IER – AUS-01
- SEPTEMBER**
 - AP Regional Meeting (Japan)
 - Heavy IER – BLR-01
 - Heavy IER – SGP-01

- OCTOBER**
 - AEME Regional Meeting (Czech Republic)
 - Heavy IER – TUR-02
 - Heavy IER – JOR-01
- NOVEMBER**
 - Light IEC – GEO-01
 - Medium IEC – THA-10
 - Heavy IER – TUR-01
 - Americas Regional Meeting (Brazil)
- DECEMBER**
 - IRNAP – China
 - AEME ERE (South Africa)
 - Medium -> Heavy IEC – OMA-01

Key Regional Highlights

Africa, Europe, and Middle East

ToT UC Course: From 31 August to 6 September, the German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW) hosted an INSARAG Training of Trainers for USAR Coordination Course at its Logistic Centre in Ulm, bringing together 17 participants from across the AEME region. The five-day programme combined three days of theoretical instruction, with two days of practical earthquake simulation. The course included foundational training on instruction, communication, adult learning, GDACs, VOSOCC and ICMS, and was complemented by site visits, showcasing THW's national capacities. It concluded with participants' presentations and practical exercises designed to strengthen their ability to deliver future USAR coordination courses.



INSARAG AEME Regional Meeting 2025: The meeting was held in Prague, Czech Republic, from 6-7 October and brought together 103 participants from 33 countries and 37 organisations to advance regional cooperation, review

progress, and align priorities for the 2026 workplan. Generously hosted by the Government of the Czech Republic, the meeting opened with high-level interventions underscoring the importance of strengthened international collaboration, followed by discussions on global and regional updates, the 2026-2030 INSARAG Strategy, Governance Review processes, and Working Group priorities. The gathering served as a key platform for Member States and partners to exchange operational lessons, reinforce commitments to INSARAG standards, and prepare for upcoming strategic milestones across the network.

INSARAG IEC/R Leadership Course: The course was held in Doha, Qatar, from 13-16 January and was hosted by the Qatar Team at the Lekhwiya Centre. It brought together 22 participants for the network's third training, following earlier editions in Oman and the Netherlands. Facilitated by the INSARAG Training Working Group and subject-matter experts, the course provided future Team Leaders, Deputy Team Leaders, Classifiers, Mentors, and Secretariat representatives with an in-depth understanding of the IEC/R process. Over four days, participants covered key leadership topics, including roles and

responsibilities, negotiation skills, exercise design, checklists, and site analysis, while exchanging experiences to enrich learning.



INSARAG AEME IERE: The Earthquake Response Exercise (ERE) took place from 1-5 December in Gqeberha, Eastern Cape, South Africa, and was hosted by the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) and supported by national, provincial, municipal, and international partners. Bringing together over 160 participants, including seven international USAR teams—EMERCOM of Russia, Estonia, Iceland, Kenya, Malaysia, UAE, and UK-ISAR—the exercise tested and strengthened coordination between national and international responders through a multi-hazard scenario combining earthquake and flood operations. The ERE significantly enhanced inter-agency interoperability and highlighted key lessons, including the need to reinforce awareness of the Reception and Departure Centre (RDC), Virtual OSOCC, and UCC structure, as well as the importance of developing a formal

Incident Command System within South Africa's emergency management system.

Americas

IRNAP Leadership Course: The government of Canada hosted the IRNAP Leadership Course from April 28 to May 1, in Calgary, Canada, with six facilitators from Brazil, Canada, Chile, Singapore and the United Kingdom and 24 participants from Canada, Ecuador, Haiti, France and Malaysia. The course aimed to strengthen national and local USAR response capacities by supporting the adaptation and implementation of the INSARAG methodology at national level, while improving the quality, consistency, and standardization of the IRNAP process - particularly through enhanced performance of TSG/TRG members using common methodologies and tools.



National Capacity Building Regional Working Group - led by Chile – was established in February 2025 with the formation of its Coordinating Committee and the drafting of the Terms of Reference. It comprises 19 experts from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic,

Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, and Mexico. The Group aims to strengthen national USAR capacities, for more efficient emergency responses in line with the INSARAG Guidelines. During its first meeting in July 2025, it prioritized reviewing INSARAG Manual A, to ensure consistent regional standards.

Flood Response Regional Working Group - proposed by Brazil at the 2024 Americas Regional Meeting and co-chaired by Brazil and Chile – brings together 14 experts from Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Peru, and the Dominican Republic. It aims to set regional standards in flood responses in the Americas. The Group held its first meeting from 23–25 November in Paraná, Brazil, with participants from Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Ecuador. Outcomes included advancing Terms of Reference, agreeing to coordinate with the Global Flood Working Group and Regional Capacity Building Committee, planning an annual South/Central America workshop, and exploring INSARAG-aligned recognition for flood response teams.



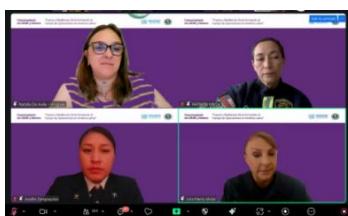
USAR Coordination Course: The Government of Colombia hosted the USAR Coordination Course in Bogotá from 10–13 November, with 35 participants from Brazil, Chile, and Colombia – USAR personnel from nationally recognized Americas teams. The course strengthened their capacity for INSARAG coordination functions, covering humanitarian principles and architecture (Cluster System, UNDAC, OSOCC), coordination tools (Virtual OSOCC, ASR levels, INSARAG forms, Kobo Toolbox, marking systems), analysis and planning processes, and RDC/UCC/SCC operations - with emphasis on large-scale sudden-onset disaster planning across multiple worksites.



ICMS: The Government of Brazil hosted two editions of the INSARAG Coordination Management System (ICMS 2.0) Course for regional capacity-building. The first ran from 13–17 October at the Higher Firefighters School of the Military Fire Brigade of the Military Police of the State of São Paulo, Franco da Rocha, with 28 participants from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ecuador, and Guatemala. The second ran from 21–25 November 2025 at the Higher Military Firefighters School in São

José dos Pinhais, Paraná, with 24 participants from Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, and Peru. The course equipped participants with skills to operate the ICMS platform and Survey123 tools for information collection and analysis, strengthening regional coordination in line with the INSARAG methodology.

USAR and Gender Webinar: The second edition of the USAR and Gender Roundtable - "Strength and Resilience: From Training to the Field of Operations in Latin America", was co-organized by the Organization of American Firefighters (OBA), INSARAG Regional Group members from Argentina, Colombia, and Uruguay and the INSARAG Secretariat with OCHA Regional Office in Panama support. Held during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign (this year focused on ending digital violence against women and girls), the event fostered reflection on gender-sensitive approaches in USAR operations in line with the INSARAG Guidelines, while sharing regional best practices for Americas field responses.



INSARAG Americas

Regional Meeting 2025: The INSARAG Regional Meeting for the Americas took place from 27 to 28 November 2025 in Curitiba, Brazil, with nearly 90 participants, focal points and key partners joining both in person and online. The event, kindly hosted by the Government of Brazil as Regional Chair, gathered representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, French Guiana, Guatemala, Honduras and Peru, along with the regional partner CEPREDENAC. During the two-day meeting, participants discussed regional priorities, plans and initiatives to strengthen regional response coordination in USAR contexts. Particular focus was placed on the INSARAG workplan for 2026, the future INSARAG Strategy 2026–2030, the work carried out by the regional working groups (Flood Response and National Capacity Building), as well as ongoing IRNAP processes in the region.

Asia-Pacific

INSARAG Asia-Pacific

Informal Meeting 2025: The meeting chaired by Japan, the INSARAG AP Regional Chair 2025, was held on 24 March, in a hybrid format, to touch base with members, introduce new Focal Points, and finalize the Asia-Pacific regional workplan ahead of the ISG. The meeting opened with agenda setting and introductions, followed by discussions on regional

priorities and upcoming activities. The Asia-Pacific Plan 2025 emphasized quality standards, localization, flexible response, and partnerships. Key updates included upcoming regional activities such as the USAR Coordination Course in Singapore, IEC/Rs, the INSARAG Asia-Pacific Regional Meeting in Japan, and the IRNAP in China, with an emphasis on hybrid and cost-effective formats.



INSARAG Asia-Pacific

Regional Meeting 2025: The Regional Meeting was held in Tokyo, Japan, on 7–8 August, in a hybrid format. The meeting was hosted by the Government of Japan and included over 90 participants, from 20 countries and 3 observer organisations. Key highlights included updates on global and regional workplans for 2025, governance and guidelines reviews, and inputs to the INSARAG Strategy 2026–2030. The Asia-Pacific network discussed 2026 workplans, long-term regional planning, training priorities, and future EREs. The host country and regional teams shared good practices on capacity building, localisation, and lessons learned from recent INSARAG deployments in

2024/2025, including the landslides in Papua New Guinea in May 2024, the earthquake in Vanuatu in December 2025, and the earthquake in Myanmar in March 2025. Australia was confirmed as the 2026 Asia-Pacific Regional Chair.



China IRNAP 2025: The IRNAP took place in 2025, both TSG and TRG processes. The TSG consisted of USAR experts from Indonesia, Malaysia, and China. The TRG visit took place from 1-5 December 2025 in Beijing by TRG members from Indonesia and Singapore. The RFP and the CRD Director of OCHA also participated in the event. This was the second IRNAP conducted in the Asia-Pacific Region, following Singapore in 2022, and the tenth globally. A number of lessons learned were collected during the IRNAP, as the concept was originally developed and actively implemented in the Americas. Feedback includes further refinement of IRNAP to reflect different contexts.



Acknowledgements

The INSARAG global network expresses profound gratitude to our donors and supporters, whose invaluable contributions drive our vital mission. Your support sustains our efforts to enhance emergency preparedness and response, ultimately saving lives, alleviating suffering, and mitigating adverse consequences. As we embark on a promising year ahead, filled with numerous activities, trainings, and exercises, we are committed to fortifying our network to ensure the seamless effectiveness and coordination of international urban search and rescue assistance.

Drafted by the INSARAG Secretariat, OCHA Geneva. All photos from INSARAG Secretariat unless stated otherwise.

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.



INSARAG Secretariat

Emergency Response Section
Response Support Branch
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
Palais des Nations – CH 112 Geneva 10
Switzerland
insarag@un.org