

## **Annex 11: Asian Disaster Management Landscape**

Over the last decade Asia has suffered the greatest number of natural and technological disasters, with an alarming 80% of the global death toll<sup>1</sup>. At the same time, economic growth in Asia has been strong with many Asian economies well-established and making major investments in infrastructure, including militaries and disaster management. The region is also home to more than 75% of the world's volcanoes and experiences 90% of the world's earthquakes. As a result, the Asian community has both the need - and to some extent the capacity, to focus on disaster risk management at the national and regional level.

Asia is diverse – it comprises 2/3ds of the world's population; over 50% of the world's surface, 50% (and growing) of the world's economy, 45% of the world's military and is home to 70% of the world's disasters.

There exist a plethora of regional mechanisms (bodies, organizations and fora) that engage on particular aspects of disaster management, either as their key focus or as part of their broader regional engagement. Principal among these are the Association of South East Asian Nations, ASEAN, the Asia-Pacific Economic Community, APEC, and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, SAARC. However, there are also sub-regional entities and organisations within the larger groupings focusing on one or more disaster management elements.

And, unlike the approach in the Pacific Islands where there is an overarching 10-year regional disaster risk management strategy, disaster risk management strategies in Asia are more loosely aligned with individual regional organization and national policy agendas. Membership of the fora and organizations differ. As a consequence, there is no single disaster management framework across Asia.

Many international humanitarian organizations (United Nations, Red Cross Movement, and non-government organizations) have established a permanent presence in Asia and Bangkok in particular has become home to a number of regional headquarters. Not only are their response operations run from the region, but many of these agencies are establishing permanent disaster risk management programs such as stores warehousing, response coordination working groups, scenario and training centres as well as disaster risk reduction programs.

All Asian countries have established national disaster management mechanisms and for most this is a civilian National Disaster Management Organisation supported by variable levels of associated legislation, regulations and resources – including military capabilities. Civil society (including local non-government organisations and faith-based organizations) form an important component to the region's preparedness, response and recovery capabilities. The expertise, resources, and knowledge of best

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<sup>1</sup> IFRC – World Disasters Report.

practice in humanitarian action are diverse within this environment, and coordination and cooperation is often challenging.

As a consequence, the disaster risk management landscape in Asia is complex and at times confusing. National disaster management capabilities aside, existing regional disaster risk management mechanisms can be grouped into:

- Asia Regional bodies and mechanisms
- The United Nations
- International Agencies

### **11.1 Asia Regional bodies and mechanisms**

Regional fora including the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) focus on strengthening political and economic ties as well as promoting shared growth and development. Deepening security ties between members and recognition of the negative impact of disasters have seen disaster management efforts given greater priority. Disaster risk management is widely perceived as a shared priority for countries to cooperate and show progress on.

At times, disaster management has been used as a proxy for greater cooperation and assurance on security issues and while a welcome impetus, this has contributed to the multi-layering and potential confusion.

A large number of regional fora, networks and organisations with a specific disaster management focus exist. They range from training and capacity building organisations to regional offices of global or international organisations. While these bodies are present in the Asia region, their individual membership and geographic focus can differ significantly (eg. South Asia, East Asia, South East Asia, Asia and the Pacific). Some organisations have also been established as the result of a need to support national level efforts on disaster risk management (eg non-government organisation networks, regional support units) and their policy agenda is accordingly driven by stated national priorities.

The following bodies are considered the key regional players in disaster management:

#### **11.1.1 ASEAN**

- The **Association of South East Asian Nations, ASEAN**, has the objectives of promoting *regional cooperation in Southeast Asia in the spirit of equality and partnership thereby contributing to peace, progress and prosperity in the region* (Bangkok Declaration of 8 August 1967). ASEAN

comprises 10 South East Asian nations<sup>2</sup>. Disaster management issues figured early in ASEAN, including the Concord I (1976), the Declaration on Mutual Assistance on Natural Disasters (1976), through the Agreement for a Food Reserve (1979), to the Declaration on Action to Strengthen Emergency Relief, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Prevention (2005) and the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (2005). ASEAN has established 10 dialogue partners<sup>3</sup> and one observer (Papua New Guinea).

- The **ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management, ACDM**, established in 2002 from a restructure of the ASEAN Experts Group on Disaster Management, comprises the heads of the 10 ASEAN national disaster management organisations and is responsible for coordinating and implementing activities under the ASEAN Regional Programme on Disaster Management. The Committee meets at least annually to review progress and to plan further implementation under the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, AADMER. The Committee next meets in March 2009. It takes policy direction from the **ASEAN Standing Committee, and Ministerial Meeting, on Disaster Management**.
- The **ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management plus 3**<sup>4</sup> is held back to back with the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management with the initial meeting in 2007 and the second in March 2008. This body and the **ASEAN plus 3 Forum on Military and International Disaster Rescue Research** advance the ASEAN plus 3 2007-2017 work plan, including cooperation on disaster response, implementing the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response and enhancing civil-military cooperation in disaster response.
- The **ASEAN Humanitarian Task Force, HTF**, is chaired by the ASEAN Secretary General, Dr Surin, and is activated when there is a disaster in an ASEAN country. The Task Force coordinated ASEAN assessments of and responses to cyclone Nargis in Burma.
- The **ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response, AADMER**, was concluded in Vientiane on 26 July 2005. The Agreement commits ASEAN countries to: risk identification and monitoring activities; prevention and mitigation activities; disaster preparedness; and joint response. The Agreement creates the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Centre and stipulates process to build cooperation such as: the nomination of focal points, technical cooperation activities, a fund for operations and a Conference of the Parties. The Agreement has been signed, but not yet ratified, by all 10 ASEAN countries.
  - ASEAN countries are also pursuing a **Standard Operational Procedure for Regional Standby Arrangements and**

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<sup>2</sup> Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam

<sup>3</sup> Australia, Canada, PR China, the European Union, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States

<sup>4</sup> China, Republic of Korea and Japan

**Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations, SASOPS**, to guide joint military responses and joint civilian and military responses to Asian disasters. The Standard Operational Procedure also stipulates the methodology for the periodic conduct of **ASEAN Regional Disaster Emergency Response Simulation Exercises, ARDEX**, that test the implementation and effectiveness of the standard operational procedure.

- The **ASEAN Regional Program on Disaster Management 2004-2010, ARPDM**, was developed in 2002 by members, with European Union funding, to build cooperation, capacity, information sharing external partnerships and awareness.
- The **ASEAN Specialised Metrological Centre, ASMC**, was established in 1993 and conducts research, monitoring and early warning of climate-related hazards. Satellite image analysis maps of events have been provided on the internet since 1998. It links with the World Metrological Organisation and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to provide daily and monthly data for forecasting rainfall, wind conditions, tropical storms and earthquakes in Asia.
- The **ASEAN Disaster Information Sharing and Communication Network, ASEAN DISCNet**, provides access for disaster managers to shared information.
- The **ASEAN Day for Disaster Reduction** is held in conjunction with the ISDR World Disaster Reduction Day on 11 October.
- The **ASEAN Experts Group on Disaster Management, AEGDM**, was formed in 1971 and met every two years. In 2002, it was restructured into the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management.
- The **ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management, AHA Centre**, Jakarta, has recently been established with Indonesian and United Nations Development Programme support within the Indonesian disaster management agency Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana (BNBP). The Centre is *established for the purpose of facilitating cooperation and coordination among the Parties, and with relevant United Nations and international organisations in promoting regional collaboration*. The Centre currently has limited staff and capabilities. When fully operational, the Centre will collect post-event information and requests for assistance as well as the identification and dispatch of regional resources to the disaster-affected country. The Centre is to act as a single ASEAN point of engagement with the crisis-affected country.
  - **ASEAN Emergency Rapid Assessment Teams, ERAT**, are mandated in the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response and are to be mobilised from/by the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Centre. At the time of Cyclone Nargis, the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Centre was not operational and assessment teams were mobilised by the ASEAN Secretariat.

- The **ASEAN Regional Forum, ARF** is a grouping of the 10 ASEAN countries plus the 10 dialogue partners and observer, plus 6 additional partners<sup>5</sup>. The Forum's focus on military/military and civil/military cooperation increasingly encompasses disaster management. The Forum conducts practical exercises (desktop and live) that develop and test standard operating procedures build disaster response and for understanding participants' respective capacities to respond to disasters.
  - The **ASEAN Regional Forum Standard Operating Procedures for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief, HADR SOP**, is one example of this cooperation.
  - The **ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief, ARF ISM**, established in 1993, shares disaster data and early warning information as well as cooperation on disaster preparedness and relief, training in disaster management and promotion of greater disaster management awareness. The 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-sessional meeting on disaster relief was held in Helsinki, Finland, in 2007.

### 11.1.2 APEC

- The **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, APEC**, is a cooperative, multilateral economic and trade forum for 21 Pacific Rim countries including 7 ASEAN nations. It focuses on trade and investment liberalisation, business facilitation, and economic and technical cooperation to achieve free and open trade and investment in the Asia – Pacific region. APEC Senior Officials adopted the **APEC Strategy on Response to and Preparedness for Natural Disasters and Emergencies** and established the Task Force for Emergency Preparedness in March 2005.
  - The **APEC Task Force for Emergency Preparedness, TFEP**, is envisioned as the APEC focal point for coordinating and facilitating emergency preparedness activities. It does not have a response or operational role. The three priority areas of the Task Force are: strengthening Task Force coordination; building stronger links with the private sector; and, training initiatives aimed at strengthening National Disaster Management Organisations.
  - The Task Force conducts an annual **Emergency Management CEOs Forum** that brings the senior emergency managers together to focus in key issues. The 2008 issue is disaster impact assessment techniques. The Task Force also has conducted an Indonesian-led stocktake of emergency preparedness capabilities and conducts workshops and study tours.

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<sup>5</sup> Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Pakistan, East Timor, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka

- The Task Force is also considering a **Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Asia Pacific Region 2009 – 2015** that will: i) provide information to economies about the economic costs of disasters; ii) identify gaps in disaster risk reduction and preparedness; and, iii) contribute to the development of practical capacity building mechanisms to be undertaken by economies.
- The Task Force has also expressed its support for the **Asia Emergency Preparedness and Response (AEPR) facility** that when operational will develop more coherent disaster response by exercising country-level disaster managers using modern simulation technology and using the outcomes to adjust contingency plans.

### 11.1.3 SAARC

- The **South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation, SAARC**<sup>6</sup> was established in 1985 and provides a platform for South Asian cooperation to progress economic and social development through the Regional Integrated Programme of Action. SAARC is a platform for the achievement of economic and social development for the peoples of South Asia.
  - A **SAARC Meteorological Research Centre** was established in 1995 with a clear set of objectives to further regional cooperation in meteorology. It continues to contribute to cooperative endeavours in this field. Recognizing the progress in technology and emerging trends, the Centre has recently revised its objectives and goals.
  - A **SAARC Centre for Disaster Management** was established in 2006 in New Delhi. There also has been contact with the United Nation's International Secretariat for Disaster Reduction Asia Pacific Office and the Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre, Bangkok, to identify possible areas of cooperation. The South Asia network of disaster management arrangements is not as in-depth as that of South East Asia.
  - In 2007, Asia Disaster Reduction Centre, Kobe, and the SAARC Centre for Disaster Management agreed a **program of cooperation** funded by Japan, including a feasibility study into the creation of a sub-regional geographic hazard map.

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<sup>6</sup> Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan Sri Lanka

#### 11.1.4 Asia Wide

- The **East Asia Summit, EAS<sup>7</sup>**, has endorsed five priority areas for discussion, including natural disaster mitigation and avian influenza. At the second Summit in the Philippines in December 2006, the meeting identified “closer coordination among our national emergency response and management mechanisms as a specific area for this cooperation”. At that summit, Japan committed USD\$3m through the **Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund, JAIF**, for the Asia Disaster Reduction Centre, Kobe, to implement disaster education in schools and training for officials.
- The **Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre, Bangkok, ADPC**, established in 1986, provides disaster risk management training and capacity building, particularly community-based disaster risk management. The Centre also developed a Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management approach for integrating disaster risk management into the national development process. It has well-established and extensive networks of disaster management personnel from both governments and non-government organisations as a result of its training activities.
  - The **Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management, RCC** comprises the heads of national disaster management organisations from 26 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. It was established in 2000 by the Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre, Bangkok, which also acts as its secretariat. The Committee meets annually and focuses on information-sharing and lessons learned amongst members. Member countries take turns to host Committee meetings and this provides the host disaster management organisation with the opportunity to raise its profile, and disaster management issues, within its own country. The Committee is a valuable forum for networking and information exchange.
- The **Asia Disaster Reduction Centre, Kobe, ADRC**, was established in 1998 as an affiliate of the Japan Urban Disaster Research Institute. Today it is comprised of 22 member countries and 5 advisory countries. Its activities include collation and provision of disaster information, expansion of the disaster management network and disaster education and training.
  - The **Asian Conference on Disaster Reduction, ACDR** is also an annual conference with the aim of consolidating political support, commitment and action for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action in the Asian region. It has broader participation than the Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (including a number of United Nations agencies). The 2007 conference was held in Kazakhstan, co-hosted by Japan, and the 2008 conference is scheduled for Indonesia in late 2008.

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<sup>7</sup> ASEAN plus 3 (China, Japan and Korea) plus Australia, India and New Zealand,

- The **Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction, AMCDR**, supported and led by the United Nation's International Secretariat for Disaster Reduction, was first hosted by China (Beijing) in September 2005 and provides a regional platform for Asian countries to share and exchange best practices and lessons learned from disaster risk reduction and to identify priorities for action that may be considered by countries for the Hyogo Framework of Action implementation. Attended by Ministers, the Conference also reaffirms high-level national commitment for implementing disaster risk reduction under the Hyogo Framework of Action.
- International Federations of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has established a **Southeast Asia Regional Disaster Management Committee, RDMC**, which consists of the Disaster Management Directors/Deputies from the national societies in Southeast Asia. The **Southeast Asia Committee** develops action plans and monitors progress in implementing the Red Cross/Red Crescent Southeast Asia Regional Disaster Management Cooperation Framework.
- The **Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Program, AUDMP**, commenced in 1995 through USAID funding to the Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre, Bangkok, to reduce the vulnerability of urban populations, infrastructure, critical facilities and shelters in selected Asian cities.
- The **Asian-African Conference** of April 2005 saw a 5-year commitment by Japan of USD\$2.5 billion, with much of this targeting disaster relief in Asia (In 2006, USD\$700m was provided to Asia.)
- **The Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network, ADRRN**, is a regional network of Asian and International NGOs which promotes coordination and collaboration for effective and efficient disaster reduction and response. The network is meeting a key need in the South East Asia and South Asia regions where a plethora of new players are engaging in disaster risk management at the community level. The Network can train non-government personnel in disaster risk management concepts and practice, and share knowledge and best practices among NGOs. It also has potential to increase awareness on accountability and governance among Asian non-government organisations by promoting self regulation and peer review among its members.

## 11.2 United Nations and International Agencies

### United Nations

The United Nations presence in Asia is as a global partner, a regional partner and a country-level presence with a number of its funds, programs and agencies supporting disaster management. The United Nations is mandated to perform two functions – both pre-disaster and post-disaster: i) To build national government institutions and capability to self-manage disasters in the context of agreed international norms and standards; and ii) to build the

capacity of the disaster management system (governments, United Nations actors, regional actors, non-government organisations, militaries and the private sector) to be able to respond as a coherent system in support of national-led disaster management.

### 11.2.1 Global Level

**The Inter-Agency Standing Committee, IASC**, is the primary vehicle for United Nations inter-agency coordination of humanitarian assistance. Established in June 1992, it meets twice annually at head of Agency-level, chaired by the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator to take major humanitarian policy and operational decisions. Its membership comprises the key United Nations humanitarian agencies with standing invitees including international non-government organisations, the World Bank, International Federation of the Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent<sup>8</sup>. It was the driver for recent United Nations reforms, including the Central Emergency Revolving Fund and cluster approach.

**IASC** is a global-level committee composed of the directors of the Emergency Programmes of the Standing Committee agencies or their equivalent counterparts focused on emergency disaster response and relief. Its membership comprises relevant United Nations agencies and international non-government organisations involved in providing emergency relief. The Working Group is chaired by the Director of the United Nations Office of the Coordinator of Humanitarian Affairs, Geneva. A key role of the Working Group is to prepare options and recommendations on key and strategic humanitarian issues for its members to consider and advance.

**United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, OCHA**, is responsible for building the capacity of the international humanitarian system, including the United Nations to respond to disasters and for building the capacities of member states to self-manage disasters in accordance with international agreements and norms. Headquartered in New York and with a presence in Geneva, OCHA provides global information, including **Reliefweb** on the occurrence of disasters, their impact and the international community response to disasters.

**United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination, UNDAC**, was established in 1993 and is managed by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. On request, it can deploy disaster assessment and coordination teams to an affected country within hours. The teams assist the affected country authorities to manage the disaster. The teams also provide information to the international community on the extent of the disaster and relief needs. Disaster preparedness missions are also

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<sup>8</sup> Principals are the heads of: OCHA, FAO, WHO, UNDP, UNHCR, UNFPA WFP, UNHabitat UNICEF. Standing invitees are: World Bank Fragile States Unit, Secretary General IFRC, Executive Director ICVA, Director General ICRC, SRSG on Human Rights and Refugees, Director General IOM, High Commissioner for Human Rights, Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response, CEO InterAction

conducted outside of a particular event to assess and improve a country's preparedness arrangements.

**The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, ISDR**, launched by the United Nations in 2000, acts as a focal point within the United Nations System to coordinate and promote disaster risk reduction. The Strategy is the primary international mechanism to support implementation of The Hyogo Framework for Action and in June 2007 it supported the first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. By bringing together all parties involved in disaster risk reduction the Global Platform intends to support Regional and National Platforms for reducing the many risks we face to natural disasters.

**The Hyogo Framework for Action, HFA**, arose from the 2005 World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan, at which 168 countries committed themselves to making the world safer from disasters by agreeing to the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 – 2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters*. The Framework provides the basic concepts of disaster risk reduction, guiding principles, priorities for action, and prescribes an expected outcome.

Under the Framework, states are primarily responsible for implementation and are encouraged to build a strong sense of ownership by collaborating with communities and local government to implement national policy. International organisations including the United Nations system and the international financial institutions, regional disaster risk management organisations, and community-based organisations, will all assist national governments to identify tasks and responsibilities.

The **International Search and Rescue Advisory Group, INSARAG**, was established with the United Nations in 1991 as an informal network of urban search and rescue response organisations. It is administered by OCHA. It provides response activities and promotes improvements in search and rescue preparedness in disaster-prone countries. It holds annual conferences in the Asia-Pacific region.

### **11.2.2 Regional Level**

The key regional level United Nations partners are:

**The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP**, coordinates United Nations initiatives that promote long-term economic development and social progress in the Asia Pacific region. Within this large portfolio, there is an emphasis on disaster management and prevention in Asia. The Commission administers a **Trust Fund that supports establishment of a tsunami early warning system** for the Indian Ocean region and building community resilience capacity. It also has established a High-level Expert Group on technical options for disaster management systems for Tsunamis and other disasters.

**OCHA's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, ROAP**, is a key disaster risk management actor in DRM even though its mandate is on coordinating emergency response. It has long-standing partnerships with other key actors. There is widespread recognition and support for OCHA's role in disaster preparedness and response. The office's role in coordinating the activities of international actors in a disaster response is evolving. OCHA has been undertaking a **stocktake of hazards and vulnerability**, as well as internal capacities to respond to disasters, for each of the 36 countries and 14 territories covered by the regional office. Its regional and country-level multi-hazard maps provide a valuable resource for use by stakeholders for risk reduction planning. It is looking at merging this work with similar work being undertaken by International Secretariat for Disaster Reduction.

**United Nations Development Programme Regional Centre Bangkok, UNDP RCB**, is also playing a key regional role with a large regional office. It is undertaking the important task of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into all United Nations development programming, through integrating risk reduction into United Nations Country Assessment Frameworks and by developing mainstreaming tools and guidelines for United Nations country offices to use. Other disaster risk reduction regional activities include support for the development of community-based early warning systems (including identifying multi-hazard risk patterns); increasing countries' capacity to analyze disaster trends; and improvements in compiling disaster data. The Regional Centre is implementing a **regional program to build capacity for sustainable recovery and risk reduction in tsunami-affected countries**, (Sri Lanka, Maldives, Thailand and Indonesia.) Within the Programme, the Bureau of Conflict Prevention and Response, BCPR, is investigating the conflict-disaster interface to strengthen programming approaches.

**The World Food Programme Regional Office for Asia, WFP ROAP**, located in Bangkok, is the Asia regional Office of the United Nations frontline agency in the fight against global hunger. The Office provides: support to countries offices in Asia on ongoing food security operations; provides surge capacity to emergency operations; and provides leadership in developing innovative approaches to emergency preparedness and response in the region. The World Food Programme is also the global logistics cluster lead, providing logistics and communications support to emergency operations globally.

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## **Annex 12: Australian Disaster Management Landscape**

### **Australian Government**

Constitutionally the responsibility for planning for, and responding to, emergency events lies with the Australian State and Territory jurisdictions. The Australian Government provides necessary physical and financial assistance upon request and in consultation with States and Territories. This support is provided by the Australian Government through Emergency Management Australia, a Division of the Attorney-General's Department. Each jurisdiction has emergency management legislation which provides the framework for the operational and policy approach of that jurisdiction to emergency management.

Strategic emergency management policy is developed at the national level by the Australian Emergency Management Committee and by the state/territory emergency management committees at jurisdictional level. District/regional and local government level committees develop strategies to implement this policy within their area of responsibility. During operations the emphasis is on the response at the local level with the district/regional and state level emergency operations centres providing assistance and support to the local level, as required.

If all of the resources within a jurisdiction are exhausted or specialist support, not available in the jurisdiction is required, a designated officer in each of the jurisdictions may make a request to the Australian Government for assistance. Once approval is provided by the Attorney-General, Emergency Management Australia will coordinate the provision of the support to the jurisdiction through its Incident Management Facility.

Australian Government support to jurisdictions may be facilitated by the Australian Government Counter Disaster Taskforce, a whole of government committee normally chaired by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. Task Force membership consists of all Australian Government agencies that may have a role in providing support for that particular emergency event. Emergency Management Australia also administers the Australian Government Disaster Response Plan which details arrangements for coordinating Australian Government support to the jurisdictions.

A national committee structure exists to ensure the provision of strategic emergency management advice to the Prime Minister and Premiers/First Ministers of states/territories who form the Council of Australian Governments. Emergency Management Australia provides secretariat support to these committees and manages a range of disaster plans and the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.

Nation-wide domestic policy level cooperation is often undertaken through the Council of Australian Governments or through a range of issue-specific

emergency management committees with participation by Emergency Management Australia.

An underpinning strength to the Australian approach to emergency management is the active participation of communities through volunteers and non-government organisations in building community resilience. There are approximately 500,000 Australian citizens who volunteer their time in some aspect of emergency preparedness including active participation in emergency service agencies such as the State Emergency Services and Rural/Country Fire Authorities.

The Australian Government has recently established the Asia-Pacific Centre of Excellence for Civil-Military Cooperation. The facility has responsibility for a range of regional and international peace building initiatives as well as liaising with relevant emergency management bodies both nationally and internationally, developing doctrines, interagency exchange and training in respect to disaster and crisis management, and coordination and preparation in relation to civil-military cooperation during disaster events.

## **International**

The Federal Government is responsible for disaster risk management activities related to international incidents, primarily through Department of Foreign Affairs<sup>9</sup>, AusAID, and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. In the case of an incident in a developing country, commercial, non-government organisations and State-based capabilities are sourced by AusAID<sup>10</sup> from the States directly and, as appropriate, through Emergency Management Australia. The key coordinating structure is the Department of Foreign Affairs-chaired Inter-Departmental Emergency Task Force that meets to centralise incident information, compile a picture of other actual and intended responses and to formulate options for an Australian response.

The Australian Government has also established a range of international cooperation arrangements, including the France, Australia, New Zealand, FRANZ, agreement for cooperation in sharing assessment and response information to disasters in the South Pacific. Australian, French and New Zealand officials cooperate in Canberra, Noumea and Wellington as well as in the Pacific where they are represented to ensure timely and non-duplicative assistance. In recent years, Japan has been a close observer to this process. The Australia, Japan, United States Trilateral Strategic Dialogue recently endorsed disaster management as a key component of cooperating under this arrangement.

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<sup>9</sup> Following consideration by the Inter-Departmental Emergency Task Force, The Department of Foreign Affairs provided \$10m to the US Red Cross for Hurricane Katrina victims

<sup>10</sup> In response to the May 2006 Yogyakarta earthquake, AusAID funded commercial and State-based medical teams

## **Recognised non-governmental organizations (NGOs)**

Australia has a healthy non-government organisation community, many of whom are engaged in the humanitarian space in developing countries. The Australian non-government organisation peak body for international development, the Australian Council for International Development, ACFID, has established a code of conduct and endorsed a range of international guidelines and best practices for members to uphold. The Council also operates a Humanitarian Reference Group that provides a forum for individual Australian non-government organisations to share knowledge and challenges. The Australian Government, through AusAID, has developed partnership agreements with a number of these non-government organisations through an accreditation process. Emergency response agreements are held with six of these<sup>11</sup> which have undergone further accreditation in relation to their capacities to deliver effective disaster risk management programs in the region, including effective disaster response.

Australian non-government organisations also form broader consortia both within in their particular international family (eg: Oxfam, World Vision and Care) and across brands (eg: the Tsunami Evaluation Coalition).

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<sup>11</sup> Rec Cross, Oxfam, World Vision, Care Australia, Caritas and Austcare

## **Annex 13: Indonesia Disaster Management Landscape**

Indonesia is highly vulnerable to a range of natural disasters and consistent with global trends has become more so in the past 3 decades. The Government of Indonesia's **National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2005-2009, NAP DRR**, reflects heightened commitment to disaster management in particular through a change in focus from response to preparedness and mitigation.

The Disaster Management Bill, 24/2007, is new national legislation providing direction and authority to disaster management efforts, including the establishment of a new Indonesian disaster management agency **Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana, BNPB**. The new Agency is headed by Dr Syamsul Ma'arif and continues the transition from BAKORNAS to BNPB. The Agency has program links to Australia, Japan International Cooperation Agency, France (CIVPOL), the United Nations Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Development Program and the World Bank.

The German development Agency, GTZ, is undertaking the construction of the Indonesian component of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning system.

Depending upon the severity of an event, the **United Nations Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs** provides a platform for United Nations and international partner coordination in a disaster response. **The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and **Palang Merah Indonesia**, the Indonesian Red Cross, are significant response partners.

Indonesia is also host to the ASEAN Secretariat with its attendant disaster management structures, including: the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management; The ASEAN Regional Program on Disaster Management , 2004-2010; the ASEAN Humanitarian Task Force; and the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response. (Annex 11 contains a fuller description of Asia and ASEAN disaster management mechanisms and centres.)

Also located within the Indonesian Disaster Management Agency is the **ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management**. The AHA Centre facilitates cooperation and coordination between ASEAN members and relevant United Nations and international disaster management organisations. Its role includes collecting post event impact information, receiving requests for assistance and the identification and despatch of regional resources

The **Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement**, a collaboration between the Australian Federal Police and the Indonesian National Police with a specific police and security sector training focus. This Centre does not have a

disaster management role, however, disaster management awareness could usefully be included in its curriculum.

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