

Monthly progress update

February 2021

Leveraging ASEAN Capacities for
Emergency Response (LACER)

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Background

“Leveraging ASEAN Capacities for Emergency Response (LACER)” is a project funded by the European Union. The overall objective is strengthened resilience in ASEAN region through improved disaster risk management. The specific objectives consists of strengthened capacity and sustainability of the AHA Centre to achieve operational excellence in disaster monitoring, preparedness and emergency response, and enhanced mechanism for ASEAN Leadership to Respond-As-One through excellence and innovation in disaster management.

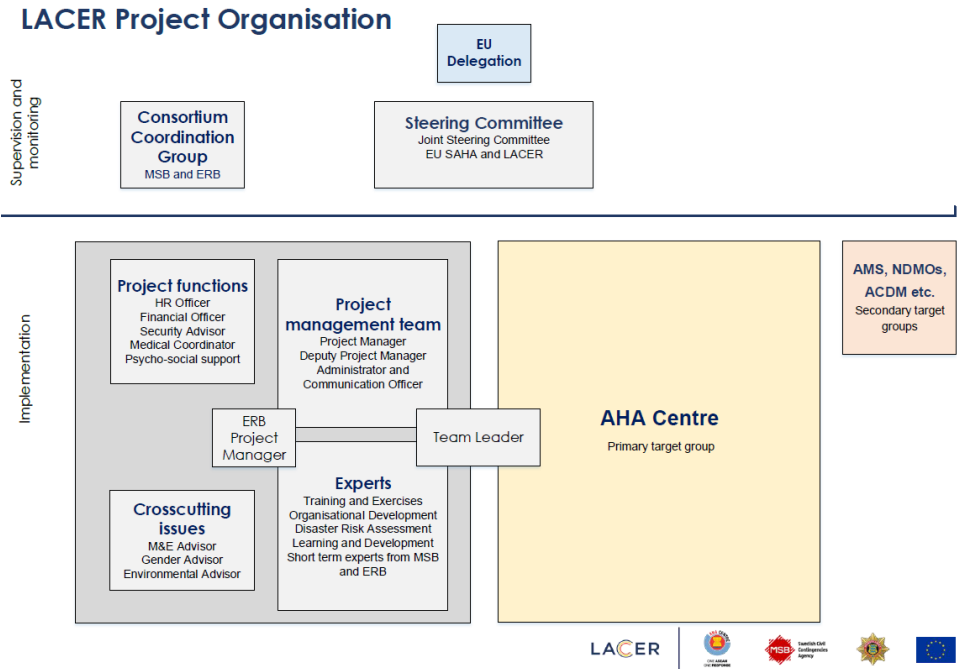
The project is implemented by a Consortium consisting of the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agencies (MSB), as lead, jointly with the Estonian Rescue Board (ERB). It is a component of the overall EU programme “Integrated Programme in Enhancing the Capacity of AHA Centre and ASEAN Emergency Response Mechanisms (EU Support to AHA Centre)”.

The project consists of the following four components.

- Component 1
Strengthened institutional capacity, corporate policies and management of the AHA Centre
- Component 2
Enhanced operational capacity of the AHA Centre in monitoring, preparing and responding to disasters
- Component 3
Increased preparedness and Respond-As-One capacities of ASEAN
- Component 4
Enhanced professionalism through standards and certification

The project has a 43 months lifespan and started on March 1, 2020.

Fig 1. Illustration of the LACER project organisation structure



Project progress update for the period February 2021

The project is in full implementation phase, with several parallel ongoing processes, illustrated in the activity plan for 2021. All activities are fully aligned with the priorities in the AADMER work programme for 2021 – 2025. During the period contacts with the AHA Centre has intensified and been highly productive. Planning of several activities are ongoing.

Strengthened capacity and sustainability of the AHA Centre to perform its operational mandate

There are a number of processes aimed at the specific objective of the project.

Following the first webinar with the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC), discussions are underway with the Assistant Director for Disaster Monitoring and Analysis, to organise a hands-on workshop with detailed presentations of the ERCC and the AHA Centre on the whole process of developing respective information products – from data collection, recording, analysis, product creation, to dissemination. During such a workshop, the ERCC's Duty Officer system will also be discussed and lessons learned shared that may be used at the AHA Centre. This serves a step towards maintaining an exchange of mutual learning with the ERCC.

The project will shortly organise a workshop aimed at strengthened capacity for strategic long-term planning. Discussions around this are being finalised with the resource mobilisation team. The workshop will look into key steering documents and processes. Equally, the project is looking into stakeholder mapping regarding traditional and non-traditional partners of the AHA Centre, resource mobilisation and donor coordination.

The AHA Centre is a growing organisation with a number of new staff, also with a fairly steady turnover of staff. It is important that it can work as one unified organisation underpinned by common values and agreed ways of working, also being an attractive employer throughout all stages of the employee life cycle. One important aspect is therefore to develop an induction training concept and content. Identifying a suitable concept is format currently ongoing between staff at the Corporate Affairs Division and LACER experts. Moreover, there are close tripartite communication between the AHA Centre, LACER and the parallel GIZ project on HR on finding synergies between the two projects and building on mutual achievements, which also may affect sequencing of LACER activities.

Review of steering and management documents and policies from environmental and gender perspectives are continuing.

Pedagogical profile and operational change management

LACER pedagogical profile

The project has adopted a pedagogical profile that will guide all activities. LACER learning events are designed based on the idea that learning is *an active construction process* and will focus around the following.

1. LACER learning events use measurable learning objectives.
2. LACER learning event explicitly express “What’s in it for the learners?”
3. LACER learning event center around learners’ engagement and active processing.
4. LACER learning events present facts in short incremental bursts.

LACER Model for Organisational change management

The LACER project supports institutional capacity development. The project aims to achieve sustained capacity development on different levels. To achieve this, organisational change is necessary and it rests at the very core of the project. The project will aim to adopt a structured approach to organisational change management to ensure that changes are implemented smoothly and successfully to achieve lasting benefits. The project is currently working on a model for operational change management that can be implemented in the project that is realistic, achievable and measurable that will be used during implementation.

Communication and visibility

During the reporting period the following communication and visibility activities can be mentioned.

Date	Target Group	Activity
28 February	AHA Centre/EUinASEAN followers	EUinASEAN regrammed an Instagram post on the LACER ERCC webinar.
5 February	Swedish public	Team leader Kajsa Sjösvärd was interviewed on Swedish radio about the LACER project.