

# Monthly progress update

March 2021

Leveraging ASEAN Capacities for  
Emergency Response (LACER)

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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.

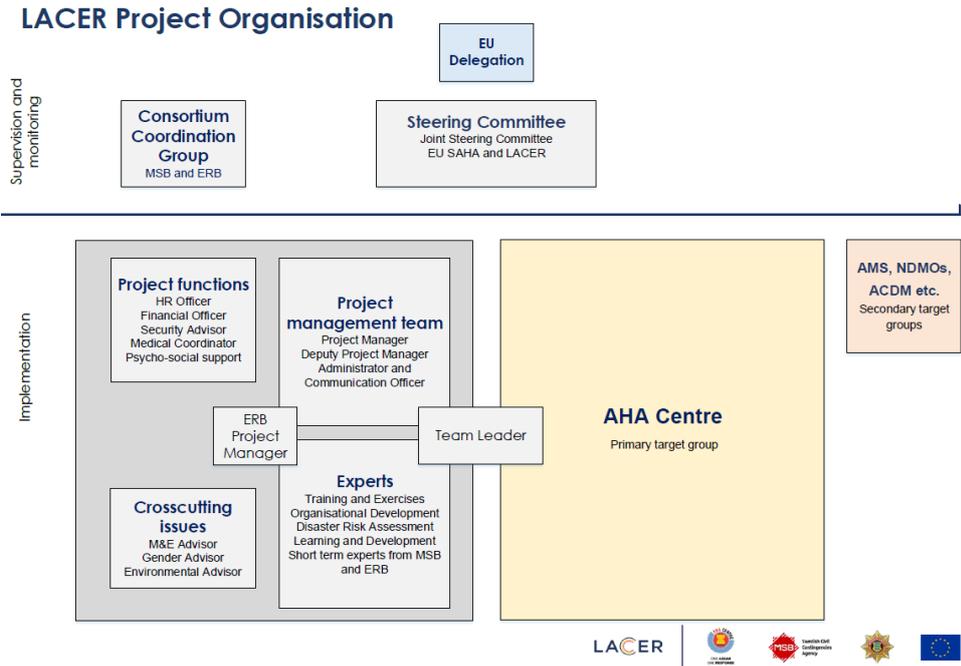
The project is implemented by a Consortium consisting of the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agencies (MSB), as lead, jointly with the Estonian Rescue Board (ERB). It is a component of the overall EU programme “Integrated Programme in Enhancing the Capacity of AHA Centre and ASEAN Emergency Response Mechanisms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

#### Developing concept and content (curriculum) of induction training

Developing the concept and content, i.e. the curriculum for induction training, is well under way. The agreed common goal of the induction training is engaged staff at the AHA Centre, making the training sustainable as the new norm. To achieve this, organisational change models are used looking at the vision, action plan, resources, skills and motivation, as well as motivating factors, focusing on active learning methods. The project will support a training of trainers for the subject matter experts who will roll out the training. In developing the concept and curriculum, the core values of the AHA Centre is in focus. Meetings with the relevant staff at the AHA Centre are carried out on a regular basis. The AHA Centre has adopted the LACER pedagogical profile as its internal document on learning. The learning objectives for the induction training have been agreed. The first induction training is planned for May 2021.

#### Integration of Cross Cutting issues (CCI)

Strengthened incorporation of gender and human rights based approaches and environment at organisational level aim to strengthen the credibility of the AHA Centre as a modern organisation and will feed into all components, work streams and activities as the project develops. The activities looking into reviewing the identified steering document *AHA Centre Staff Rules and Regulations (ACSSR)* from a Gender/Diversity and Environmental perspective are in the final stages of completion. The findings will be validated with the Corporate Affairs Division. Findings show an absence of an environmental perspective in the ACSSR. There seem to be a need to systematically build an environmental management system including steering documents on environmental policy, environmental goals, climate emission targets and other important environmental aspects. Equally, on gender and human rights, the same review showed a need to create a more systematic system for gender equality and diversity included steering documents and policies.

#### ERCC exchange

For the purpose of sharing experiences, lessons learned and best practices from the ERCC, the project is planning to conduct two workshops/webinars targeting EOC officers at the AHA Centre. AHA Centre EOC officers will present the WebEOC system and plans for updates of the system, and comparisons with CECIS and how it is used by the ERCC. Discussions will also centre on how the WebEOC system can be improved to support the work of AHA Centre and the NDMOs. The AHA Centre will also share and present their information products and tools. Discussions will focus on how to improve information management, information products and analysing of data in the EOC officers' work.

#### Developing a strategic planning tool

The project has recruited an organisational development expert with vast practical and theoretical experience. The project is now looking into whether a DRM framework on building resilient organisations developed by his university, may be used as a holistic strategic planning tool for the AHA Centre in mapping needs, stakeholders, steering document etc. also supporting donor and partner dialogue. The tool will shortly be presented to the AHA Centre.

Furthermore, a strategic planning workshop is also being scheduled aimed at strengthened capacities regarding strategic long-term planning centred around the AHA Centre’s strategic priorities. The project participated at an internal strategic planning workshop on operationalising activities under one of the priority programmes under the AADMER Work plan 2021-2025.

**ARDEX and ASEAN-ERAT**

The next ARDEX exercise will be held in March 2022, probably as an online table top exercise. There have been bilateral meetings with the AHA Centre to discuss further needs and improvements of the upcoming exercise and more specifically where LACER may provide support since there are a number of different actors involved.

Discussions are also ongoing regarding development of ASEAN-ERAT and needs regarding exercises, standards and as well as relationship with UNDAC teams and other collaboration.

**Meeting with stakeholders**

The project remain in contact with several external partners.

The project has established contact with the ASEAN Secretariat, Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Division (DMHA). DHMA is responsible for facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the AADMER Work Plan. It also serves as the Secretariat for ACDM and is member of governing board of the AHA Centre. The three working groups under ACDM are led by senior officers at DHMA. The project will be invited to upcoming partnership coordination meeting and ACDM Working Group on Preparedness, Response and Recovery).

**Communication and visibility**

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

Date	Target Group	Activity
9 March	MSB internal staff	In the spirit of mutual learning, a presentation of the LACER project was given for all MSB staff working with international and domestic operations (peace keeping, humanitarian, resilience, covid-19 response, and national operations).