

# Monthly progress update

## October 2020

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.

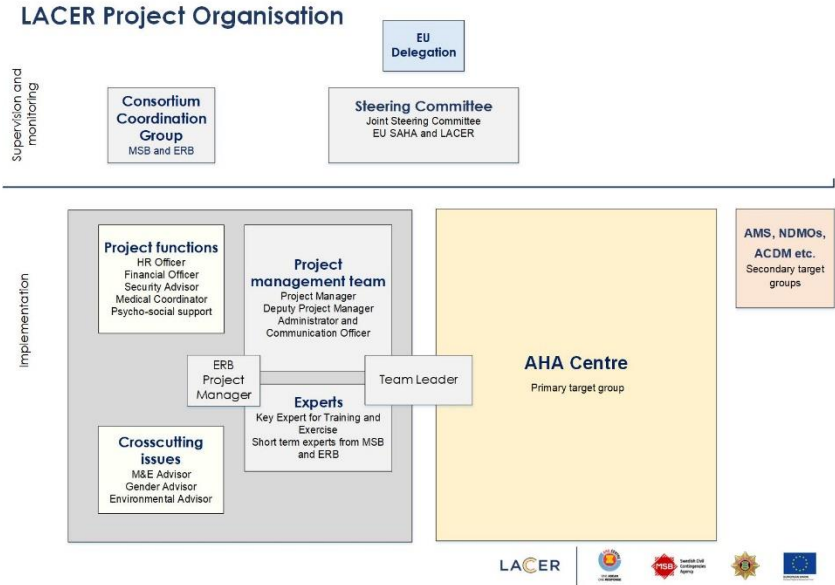
The project is implemented by a Consortium consisting of the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agencies (MSB), as lead, jointly with the Estonian Rescue Board (ERB). It is a component of the overall EU programme “Integrated Programme in Enhancing the Capacity of AHA Centre and ASEAN Emergency Response Mechanisms (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 October 2020

## Action taken during the reporting period

The period has directed a lot of its focus on developing a comprehensive report for the Inception phase covering the period 1 March – 31 October 2020. The aim of the Inception phase has been to provide orientation for the subsequent phases and strengthen the partnership with the AHA Centre and other relevant stakeholders. It has covered activities to increase the understanding of the state of play and support the development of both functional and technical capacities, and the exact mix of capacities to be addressed within the project.

## Activity plan

The tentative activity plan, with time line, has been developed based on the overall findings during the Inception phase covering all four components. It seeks to integrate cross-cutting issues and will, through sequencing of project activities, specifically encourage the engagement of the NDMOs. The plan has been developed by the Consortium and will be validated by the AHA Centre. The ambition has been to consciously aim to set activities that reinforce each other. The plan is divided into the four core components. Component activities have been divided into work streams with sub-activities. Each activity has a clearly defined expected result, content target group, as well as containing relevant input, output and follow-up. The activities are sequenced to have a rational and logical working stream. A lot of emphasis has been placed on strengthening institutional capacity since it also affects the operational capacity.

- Within “*Component 1 – Strengthened institutional capacity, corporate policies and management of the AHA Centre*” work streams include policy and management development, strategic planning & programming and learning & development.
  - Human resources, cross-cutting issues and internal communication have been identified as prioritised areas.
- Within “*Component 2 – Enhanced operational capacity of the AHA Centre in monitoring, preparing and responding to disasters*” work streams include Preparedness for response: ERO protocols and routines and Risk information and disaster data: monitoring and sharing.
  - The duty officer function and understanding regional risk have been identified as prioritised areas.
- Within “*Component 3 – Increased preparedness and Respond-As-One capacities of ASEAN*” work streams include training and exercise capacity development and coordination. –
  - Training & exercise methodologies, ARDEX and ERAT have been identified as prioritised areas.
- Within “*Component 4 – Enhanced professionalism through standards and certification*” work streams include AHA Centre standardisation and certification programme and emergency response and coordination standards development.
  - Certification baseline establishment, function profiles within ERAT, standard and certification on modules have been identified as prioritised areas.

## Communication and visibility

During the reporting period the following communication and visibility activities have been carried out.

Date	Target Group	Activity
October 2	EU, Management MSB, ERB, AHA Centre etc.	Communication and visibility plan approved by the EU Delegation
October	All target groups	LACER website under construction
October 1-3	AHA Centre staff, MSB followers, ASEAN member states (AMS)	Validation workshop – invitation and social media post: AHA Centre Instagram, Twitter (retweeted by MSB)
October 13	MSB Partners, stakeholders, experts	Article on International Day of Disaster Reduction (DRR) and LACER published on MSB:s webpage <sup>1</sup> , Facebook and Twitter.
October 26	AHA Centre, AMS, partners etc.	Profile about LACER and Team leader Kajsa Sjösvärd prepared for the AHA Centre publication The Column.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.msb.se/en/news/2020/oktober/international-day-for-disaster-risk-reduction/>