

Technical Specification – Disaster Health Management (HP 13)

The ASEAN region is one of the most disaster-prone areas in the world, facing frequent and intensifying risks from natural hazards such as typhoons, floods, earthquakes, and emerging climate-related events. These disasters pose significant challenges to public health systems ranging from mass casualties and disease outbreaks to long-term disruptions in healthcare services and infrastructure. Health Priority 13 (HP 13) on Disaster Health Management (DHM) underscores the need for a proactive, coordinated, and resilient approach to managing health risks before, during, and after disasters. Effective DHM ensures that emergency preparedness and response systems are in place, health facilities remain operational in crises, and vulnerable populations receive timely and adequate care during emergencies.

Projects intending to contribute to HP 13 should demonstrate that they have taken into account the following general, global, regional and national considerations:

General

- Whole-of-society disaster preparedness framework
- Emergency medical teams (EMT) readiness and coordination
- Integration of disaster risk reduction in health systems

Global

- Refer to the WHO "[Emergency Response Framework \(ERF\)](#)" which defines WHO's role in supporting member states and affected communities with an all-hazards approach
- Refer to the WHO [Emergency Medical Teams Initiative \(EMT Minimum Standards\)](#) - Details minimum standards for clinical care, public health, logistics, and coordination
- Apply the "[Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#)" - Addresses health, infrastructure, livelihoods, and environment—shaping multi-sector policies that promote risk-informed development
- Use the [Inter-Agency Standing Committee \(IASC\) Health Cluster tools and guidelines](#) to strengthen accountability, ownership, and sustainability of health responses—ensuring that local capacity and leadership are prioritised in coordination efforts
- Refer to the "[WHO Health Emergency and Disaster Risk Management Framework \(HEDRM\)](#)" - Covers the full cycle—prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery—for managing health risks from disasters, epidemics, and environmental hazards

Regional (Asia):

- Refer to the [AHC 2 Work plan for Health Priority 13 \(Disaster health management\)](#), and its relevant Programme Objectives (2021-2025) to identify priority activities
- Refer to the “[2005 ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response \(AADMER\)](#)” which includes guidance on prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery, and rehabilitation, ensuring end-to-end management of disasters across the region
- Use the [ASEAN SASOP – Standard Operating Procedures for Disaster Relief](#) to understand how to operationalise and mobilise assistance, including military, civilian, and humanitarian assets, during disasters
- Refer to the [Asia Pacific Strategy for Health Emergency Risk Management](#) that defines six integrated areas essential for health security—ranging from surveillance to risk communication—promoting **cross-sector coordination** among health, disaster management, and policy actors
- Review information and materials issued by the [ASEAN Centre for Humanitarian Assistance \(AHA Centre\)](#) ([The AHA Centre Annual Report 2023 - AHA Centre](#)) which serves as the operational arm of the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER), facilitating cooperation and coordination during regional emergencies
- Refer to the [ASEAN Strategic Framework on Public Health Emergencies](#) which defines ASEAN-wide coordination mechanisms, roles, and governance structures to strengthen public health responses to pandemics and cross-border threats
- Reach out to WHO or FAO regional offices to learn of any relevant regional initiatives to complement or collaborate with

National

- National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plans (Health Sector Chapter)
- National Emergency Operations Plans and SOPs
- Emergency preparedness and response legislative framework
- Stockpile and logistics management systems
- Cross-sectoral simulation exercises and drills
- Health facility preparedness assessment tools