



Bolstering Disaster Preparedness and Response in ASEAN



Deputy Secretary General of Cambodia's National Committee for Disaster Management and staff analyze data on exposure estimation at the RVA Guidelines Training in Bangkok on July 20, 2016.

CHALLENGE

The region comprising the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is among the most disaster-prone in the world. As ASEAN Member States (AMS) become more and more integrated following the 2016 launch of the ASEAN Community, systems for more effective coordinated response to disasters will have to be developed and refined.

INITIATIVES

In 2011, ASEAN created the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) to serve as a regional disaster coordinator, allowing AMS to combine their resources and jointly undertake emergency response efforts, drawing upon both civilian and military capacities and assets. The U.S. Government through the ASEAN-U.S. Partnership for Good Governance, Equitable and Sustainable Development and Security (PROGRESS) project, supports ASEAN and the AHA Centre in efforts to mitigate losses from natural disasters through the following initiatives:

- **Develop and refine training curricula.** Working closely with the AHA Centre and Indonesia's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), PROGRESS is developing a framework for an ASEAN disaster management certification program.
- **ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan (AJDRP).** The main instrument for *One ASEAN One Response*, the AJDRP serves as a framework for strengthening regional collective response to disasters. PROGRESS continues to refine the AJDRP through the development of contingency plans for earthquake, tsunami, and typhoon scenarios to be tested and incorporated into the AJDRP.
- **Information Communications Technology (ICT) solutions.** PROGRESS is organizing a workshop to introduce how best to utilize new communication technologies such as TV white space, other radio frequencies, and social media to improve ASEAN response to disasters.

RESULTS

- Working closely with ASEAN, PROGRESS produced and uploaded training materials on Damage and Loss Assessment (DaLA) and Disaster Recovery for the use of NDMA across the region: <http://bit.ly/2kzWdI6>
- A powerful tool to assess vulnerability patterns and risks to prepare for disasters, Risk Vulnerability Assessment (RVA) methodologies and data were previously incompatible until PROGRESS developed, refined, and finalized "regional" RVA Guidelines, which will be adopted by ASEAN in early 2017.
- Since its deployment in 2012, the Disaster Monitoring and Response System has been the AHA Centre's main tool for monitoring hazards in the region. PROGRESS provided training and upgraded the software, enabling the system to better collect more comprehensive meteorological, seismic and demographic data.
- PROGRESS provided technical assistance to the AHA Centre to develop the AJDRP, which was formally endorsed at the 29th meeting of the ACDM in October 2016.

Implementing Partner
DAI Global, LLC

Activity Locations
National level (Jakarta)

Period of Performance
September 2013 – September 2018

Total Funding
\$14,476,637