

PEER

South Asia



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Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response



Strengthening Institutionalization of the Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response in South Asia (PEER Stage 5)

PEER aims to strengthen the institutional and technical capacity of national and regional partners to support the institutionalization and sustainability of PEER Program in South Asian countries under the PEER Stage 5.

Introduction to PEER

The U.S. Agency for International Development, Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) recently renamed as Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) initiated the Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER) in **1998** to build national and regional capacities in disaster risk reduction and management through disaster preparedness training. Over the past 20 years, PEER has been an essential instrument for enhancing disaster preparedness in the region by forming and strengthening *skilled emergency responder groups from communities, disaster response agencies, and hospitals*.

The PEER Stages

PEER Stage 5 builds upon working partnerships established under the previous phases to institutionalize this approach. It will continue working with project countries of Nepal, India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan from the earlier stages and will initiate the expansion of PEER in Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. Bhutan and Maldives will be participating through regional activities towards establishing their national programs. The PEER implementation stages have involved regional partners including Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET), American Red Cross, John Hopkins University, and Miami Dade Fire Rescue Department.

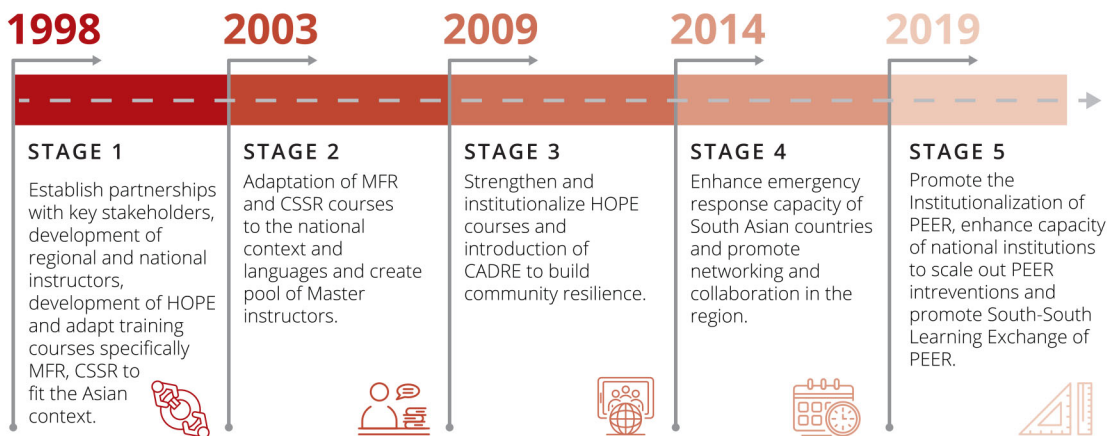


Figure 1: The PEER Stages from 1998 to 2021

After two decades of implementation, the program has gained numerous achievements in countries, to assimilate the training as part of the institutions' preparedness to respond and manage emergencies and disasters. This includes promoting regional cooperation in universally accepted standard operating procedures as a result of PEER training and sharing expertise to support other countries as they further develop their capacity development programs on emergency response and training systems.

PROGRAM GOAL

The goal of PEER South Asia is to reduce the disaster impacts on at-risk communities through effective institutionalization and sustainability of PEER in South Asia. It will be achieved through strengthened institutional and technical capacity of national and regional partners to accelerate the institutionalization and sustainability of PEER, so that disaster impacts on at-risk communities would be substantially reduced.

PEER COMPONENTS



40-hour interactive course

- Delivery by PEER-qualified instructors.
- Uses adult learning principles and methodology.
- Prepares medical personnel, managers and administrators of hospitals and healthcare facilities to manage emergencies and mass casualty events.
- Imparts skills to design appropriate facility-specific plans for continued operations and provide critical medical care in emergencies.



Basic three-day course

- Aims to empower and make resilient communities with limited dependence on external help at the time of disasters.
- Provides technical know-how on managing community multi-casualty incidents, triage, hazardous materials, identification and mitigation measures, community Incident command system, light search and rescue focusing on specific hazards of a community.

Medical First Responder Course (MFR)

Thirteen-day course

- Delivery through interactive lectures and demonstration practice sessions by experienced instructors.
- Targets emergency and disaster first response groups, specifically fire departments, Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies, police departments, Civil Defense, Disaster Response Forces and Military Disaster Response Teams and rescue groups associated with government emergency response system.
- Trains individuals with the knowledge and skills to assess, treat and transport sick or injured patients as a result of an emergency or disaster.

Collapse Structure and Search and Rescue (CSSR)

Eight-day course

- Delivery through interactive lectures and demonstration practice sessions by experienced instructors.
- Targets emergency and disaster first response groups, specifically fire departments, Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies, police departments, Civil Defense, Disaster Response Forces and Military Disaster Response Teams and rescue groups associated with government emergency response system.
- Trains individuals with the knowledge and skills to search for, stabilize and extricate victims trapped in collapsed structures using the safest and most appropriate procedures in line with INSARAG guidelines.

Swift Water Rescue Course (SWR)

Six-day course designed under PEER Stage IV (2014-2019)

- Developed with technical support from Rescue 3 International and NSET.
- Trains individuals with the knowledge and skills to search for, stabilize and extricate victims in a water-related incident in a swift water/white water scenario using the safest and most appropriate procedures.
- Provides skills-based/hands on training about the fundamentals of swimming in swift water, rope rescue techniques, river dynamics, and basic medical response.

FOCUS COUNTRIES



PROGRAM FRAMEWORK AND ACTIVITIES

The PEER Stage 5 framework consists of three pillars with specific interventions for integration into existing regional and national strategies of PEER countries. The activities are designed to encourage sustainability and leverage support from other partners and programs.

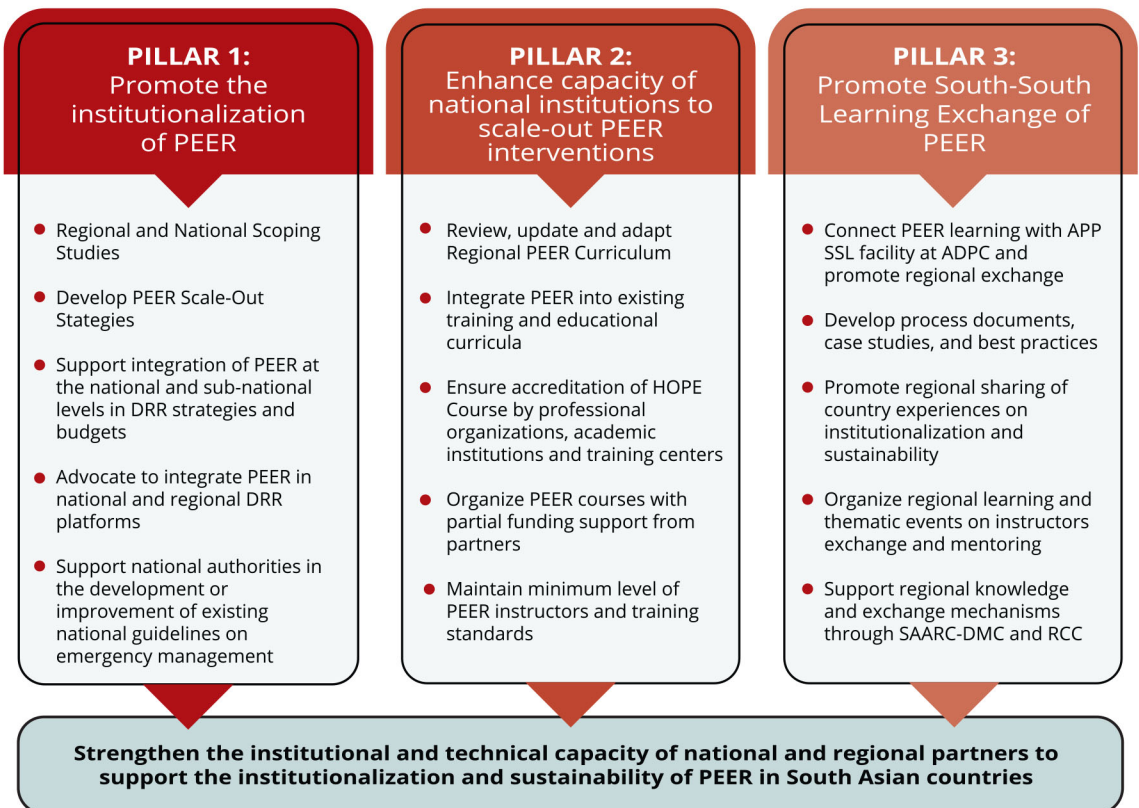


Figure 2: PEER South Asia Program Framework

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS AND NODAL AGENCIES

PEER South Asia will continue the relationship established in past phases of PEER with National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) as the nodal agencies in countries together with implementing partners from technical institutions.

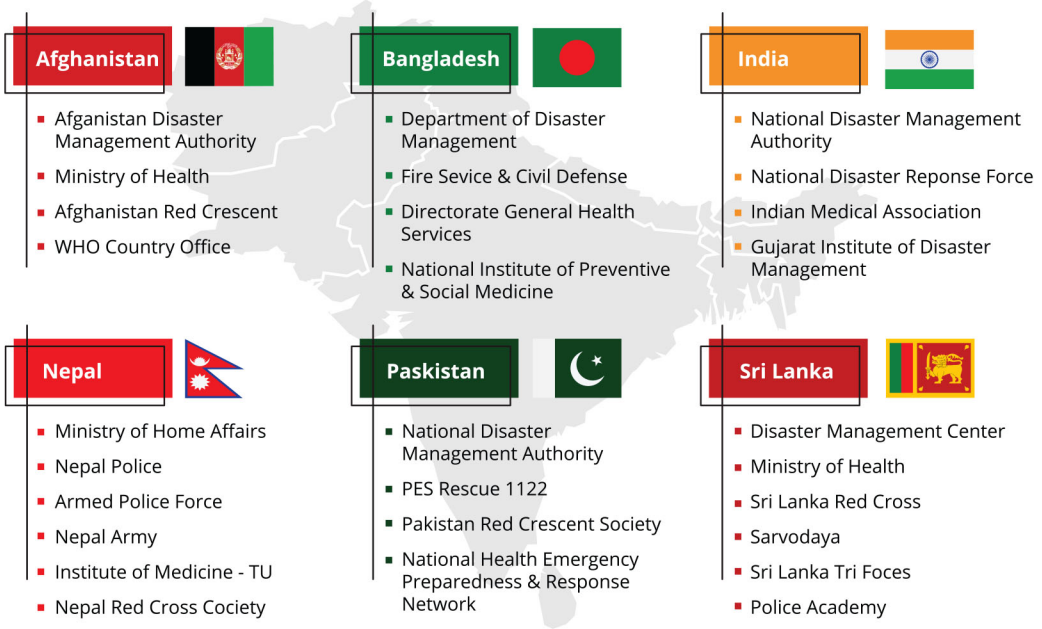


Figure 3: PEER Partnerships

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Partnerships with the NDMOs as nodal agencies remain the cornerstone for integrating PEER into existing Disaster Risk Management (DRM) policies, strategies, and program frameworks. PEER will work with National Preparedness Partnerships under the umbrella of Asian Preparedness Partnership (APP), national and sub-national disaster management institutes, professional associations, academia, local NGOs, civil society, youth organizations, and the private sector with a range of activities to strengthen the institutionalization of PEER further. Regional organizations and regional platforms like SAARC, WHO, Regional Consultative Committee on Disaster Management (RCC) and Asian Preparedness Partnership will be utilized and engaged as an entry point to advocate and scale-out PEER in the program countries and Bhutan and Maldives, where PEER has not yet been operating to date.

Regional Organization and Networks:



The capacity-building component of the program will focus on developing, managing, and implementing PEER expansion strategies based on the national priorities and DRM agendas in the countries. Program interventions will support partner institutes in developing and implementing sustainable plans to institutionalize and integrate PEER programs within institutions' annual work programs and budgets.



Figure 4: PEER Implementation Strategy

Implemented by:



Supported by:



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