

**Support protection of lives
when it matters most.**

The South-East Asia Region's 10 Member States, face recurrent disasters, climate related emergencies, protracted crisis and conflicts that increasingly threaten health and well-being of millions.

Early, catalytic financing is critical, it enables rapid response, timely supplies, and continuity of life-saving services when every hour counts.

SEARHEF is an enabler of rapid action, coordination and trust.

Emergencies do more than create immediate health challenges—they can erase years of progress in strengthening health systems and undermine hard-won advances in disease control. Delays in response cost lives and allow crises to escalate. SEARHEF enables rapid action to contain emergencies, reduce humanitarian costs, and protect these critical public health achievements.

Support regional resilience.

Partnership driven emergency preparedness and response

Financial contributions are complemented by voluntary support aligned to Regional priorities.



Life-saving supplies



Operations support



Technical services

Connect & Engage



WHO Health Emergencies Programme (WHE)

World Health Organization
Regional Office for South-East Asia
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South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund



**South-East Asia
Regional Health Emergency Fund**



**Join us.
Protect communities.
Save lives.**

Enhances regional self-reliance



SEARHEF Establishment

Since 2008 SEARHEF is a critical financing mechanism that supports emergency operations in the Member States of WHO South-East Asia Region – Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Timor-Leste. This Fund provides life-saving interventions, in the immediate aftermath of emergencies thereby bridging the critical gap between the onset of an emergency and the arrival of larger humanitarian and other support.



SEARHEF Expansion

From 2026, SEARHEF unlocks faster greater impact through enhanced voluntary (cash and in-kind), contributions and expanded partnerships with donors and private sector.



Partnership driven Emergency Preparedness and Response



As of 1 January 2026, SEARHEF:

- ♦ Supported 50 emergencies across Region
- ♦ Disbursed US\$ 8.15 million for response operations
- ♦ Contributed US\$ 125 000 to strengthen preparedness
- ♦ Invested US\$ 1.1 million in building Regional Emergency stockpiling

From 2026,

- ✓ Enhanced corpus to US\$ 3 million or more per biennium
- ✓ Increased support duration from 3 months to first 6 months following crisis.
- ✓ Expanded the funding Ceiling: from US \$ 350 0000 to US\$ 400 000 for a single emergency.

Fund built on the principles of accountability, transparency & flexibility.

Strengthens emergency preparedness capacities and response operations

SEARHEF complements the Global funding mechanisms, WHO contingency fund for Emergency (CFE) and UN Central Emergency Respond Fund (CERF), by providing rapid catalytic funding that enables countries to immediately initiate emergency response actions while larger-scale funding is being mobilized.

Regional solidarity is the essence of SEARHEF. All Member States have contributed a portion of their assessed contribution to SEARHEF demonstrating support for other nations in the event of crisis which have public health consequences.

Voluntary contributions in cash from Member States and varied stakeholders enhances the funding corpus. The in-kind support to SEARHEF leverages on partners' technical, logistical, and operational strengths.

Pre-agreed support, services and pre-positioned supplies for rapid response are accepted as per WHO regulatory standards.

Together, we can move from reactive funding to predictable, partnership-driven preparedness and response.

