

30th COSCAP-SA STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICES IN PAKISTAN
INFORMATION PAPER (IP)

(Presented by Pakistan)

SUMMARY

This paper reflects information on the Aeronautical Search and Rescue (SAR) organization, its operational situation and advancements in Pakistan. In line with the ICAO guidelines, Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) has been striving for the improvement of SAR system in Pakistan. This is achieved by catering to the requirements as mentioned in ICAO Annex – 12 and IAMSAR Manuals. In addition to this, regular studies are conducted on local level pertaining to the SAR exercises in order to improve the SAR system in Pakistan.

1. Introduction

1.1 Pakistan is a signatory of the ICAO Chicago convention and is bound by the guidelines of ICAO to provide Aeronautical SAR Air Traffic within its Airspace and over high seas where provision of Air Traffic Services (ATS) has been delegated to Pakistan. Initially, SAR services were provided by jointly with Air Traffic Services (ATS) units due to limited resources and manpower. Later on, to fulfil the ICAO requirements Karachi and Lahore Rescue Coordination Centres (RCCs) and Islamabad Rescue Sub-Center (RSC) have been established in the SAR regions of Pakistan.

1.2 Pakistan has been participating in relevant meetings and working groups on regular basis and is in line with the leading nations to be abreast with the recommendations and requirements of international governing bodies such as ICAO.

2. Information

2.1 **24/7 Operation:** The RCC(s) established in Karachi and Lahore SRR regions for the provision of round the clock SAR services

2.2 **Communication System:** Communication Channels have been established and upgraded for expeditious and reliable two – way communication with SAR stakeholders including Satellite communication facilities.

2.3 **Training:** Training of manpower has been a top priority to ensure the provision of affective SAR services in Pakistan. In this regard, development of relevant SAR courses is under way. Moreover, Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) is in the process of trained its manpower from foreign ICAO recognized institutes/academies.

2.4 **Exercises:** Conduct of SAR related exercises in a regular manner has been among the priorities of PCAA. A full scale SAR exercise has been conducted in the year 2022 involving all the SAR stakeholders.

2.5 **Documentation:** All the relevant documents are readily available in respective SAR related offices/units are continuously reviewed and updated.

2.6 **International Cooperation:** PCAA is in process of development and implementation of regional SAR Letter of Agreements (LoA) in order to provide expeditious SAR services without any delay. In this regard, coordination is underway with neighbouring States through Government of Pakistan.

2.7 **Local level cooperation:** PCAA has signed MoU(s) with its possible SAR stakeholders for co-operation in SAR services in case of any emergency/distress situation.

Integration with Local procedures: The process of integration of SAR Operations plan and Crisis Emergency Response Plans (CERPs) is underway with Mass Rescue Operation (MRO) of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). This will pave the way for a single plan of operations within the vicinity and outside the vicinity of aerodrome to meet the SAR capabilities matrix indicators.

3. Conclusion

3.1 The SAR organization/setup in Pakistan has improved in recent years and PCAA is continuously striving for the betterment of SAR infrastructure. Technological advancements have been adopted to be in line with the rest of the world. The RCC(s)/RSC have been equipped with Satellite Tracking System (COSPAS SARSAT) and facilitated with sufficient manpower so that the operations can be run on 24/7 basis. Procedures have been developed in such a way so that a prompt action can be initiated in case of any distress situation regarding an aircraft and its occupants. In this regard, all the key stakeholders are onboard with readily available SAR resources and assets.

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