



Humanitarian relief and capacity building operations



**RÄDDNINGSG
VERKET**

Swedish Rescue Services Agency

“Being where we are most needed. When it happens, where it happens.”

KJELL LARSSON, HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT - SRSA

The Swedish Rescue Services Agency (SRSA) is a government authority tasked with providing humanitarian and development aid, worldwide. The majority of the SRSA's operations are funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The SRSA has the capacity to rapidly deploy fully equipped teams and seconded specialists for all stages of the disaster management cycle.

Since 1988, the SRSA has carried out various operations in over 80 countries. The SRSA's operations, such as rapid response interventions and long term capacity development projects, always aim to improve the situation and opportunities for disaster affected populations.



FACTS ABOUT THE SRSA

- The SRSA is a government agency and has about 800 employees at several locations in Sweden.
- In the EU, the SRSA represents Sweden on issues connected to civil protection and serious emergencies.
- The SRSA spreads knowledge and works with legislation, advice and support to reduce the number of emergencies and their consequences.
- The SRSA runs training courses in the areas of civil protection, risk and safety.





“Cooperation during emergency response operations provides better results and provides greater opportunities for the transition into capacity development and early recovery.”

LARS JOHANSSON, HEAD OF THE HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS SECTION – SRSA.

HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS

The SRSA provides support for and cooperates with governments, NGOs, the EU, and UN agencies during international humanitarian operations.

BASE CAMP SUPPORT

The SRSA has developed a comprehensive concept for advanced base camps containing all the necessary functions. Base camps are adapted to the prevailing situation and can include:

- Sleeping accommodation
- Work areas
- Sanitation
- Kitchens

The SRSA builds and prepares the camp – erecting tents, setting up work areas etc. When completed, the SRSA can either provide further support by running the camp or hand over to another actor such as a UN agency.

HEALTH, SANITATION AND MEDICAL CARE

Sanitation is an aspect that must be planned for from the earliest possible stage when temporary accommodation and refugee camps are to be built. The SRSA:

- Plans the installation of sanitation facilities
- Manages the logistics
- Plans and implements disaster waste management

The SRSA can also provide medical care in humanitarian operations where there are poor or non-existent medical services, through the Medical Emergency Response Team (MERT), which is a flexible and self-sufficient medical unit ready for deployment at short notice.

ACCOMMODATION AND NECESSITIES

One of the SRSA's tasks is to provide temporary accommodation and transport of food and necessities to beneficiaries. Because of its extensive experience in the field of logistics, the SRSA has become one of the most utilized UN stand-by partners. Examples of services provided are:

- Vehicle delivery
- Driver and mechanic training
- Setting up vehicle workshops
- Leading convoys

SPECIALISTS

Humanitarian operations often require a large and varying range of professional skills and specialities. The SRSA aims to reflect this need by recruiting and seconding specialists in several areas of expertise:

- Logistics
- Electronics
- Communications
- IT
- Air movements
- Urban planning
- Road and bridge engineering
- GIS
- Environment (waste management, hazardous substances)
- Water and sanitation
- Coordination for UN field offices and reception centres in disaster areas
- Assessments
- Rapid environmental assessments



**”The humanitarian value of clearing cluster
– every cleared item is a potential healthy**

MINE ACTION

The SRSA has been engaged in Mine Action since 1999 and has carried out operations in about 10 countries. The SRSA's operations can be conducted independently, but in many cases also as support for various UN bodies, especially the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS).

Mine Action is the collective name for a number of various activities with the overall aim being to reduce the direct threat that landmines and unexploded ammunition pose for people living in affected countries and areas.

This also includes reducing the negative effect that mines and unexploded ammunition have on development and recovery.

Cooperation with UNMAS entails, for example, the SRSA being a member of the UNMAS Rapid Response Plan for Mine Action, in which the SRSA has the task of being able to place resources at the disposal of UNMAS within 72 hours, in connection with humanitarian disasters.

Of all the various areas covered by Mine Action, the SRSA's operations focus primarily on actions that are related to mine clearing, in

other words, actions that directly or indirectly lead to a reduction in the number of mines and the amount of unexploded ammunition. Apart from mine clearing operations, SRSA specialists also work in areas such as information management (e.g. IMSMA and GIS) and quality assurance for, among other things, mine detection dogs and medical services.

The SRSA constantly strives to develop its capacity to meet international needs for support in an effective, safe, and quality assured manner. This means that the SRSA continuously reassesses and adjusts its resources.

SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR)

Time is extremely limited when searching for survivors after a natural disaster. The SRSA can deploy a search and rescue team within 10 hours of receiving a request for assistance. The team consists of up to 78 SAR trained personnel and can be supplemented with 12 SAR dogs. So as not to place further burden on the disaster-hit country the team is self-sufficient for 10 days.

**bombs cannot be stressed enough
productive life saved.”**

RICKARD HARTMANN, HEAD OF MINE ACTION SECTION, SRSA



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

There is a common understanding that individuals and societies in the developing world and least developed parts of the world, with scarce resources for disaster risk reduction, are generally living at greater risk than the more affluent. These higher levels of risk combined, have been increasingly identified as a major threat to sustainable development and to the Millennium Development Goals.

SRSA operations follow the disaster management cycle, the aim is to be present in all phases and contribute towards building a more resilient society.

We assist our partners with the development of their capacities to identify and solve pro-

blems independently, thereby reducing dependency on foreign assistance and enabling a rapid response. By working with disaster risk reduction, our projects can contribute to a reduction in the number of casualties and the amount of damage caused during future disasters, thus aiding development and promoting progress.

The work of the SRSA aims to contribute to creating prerequisites for people to reduce risks, to adapt to and recover from emergency incidents, disasters and armed conflict. A long term perspective is adopted in initial planning and implementation of SRSA projects. These projects are subject to local ownership. The needs, priorities and resources of the receiving

country are the foundation for SRSA capacity development projects. The work of incorporating a civil conflict management perspective into projects is currently being developed by the SRSA.

THE SRSA CAN ASSIST THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CAPACITIES OF PARTNERS TO:

- Assess risks (risk analysis and evaluation)
- Avoid or limit risks (spatial planning, river-bank protection, management of natural resources, public awareness programmes)
- Prepare for response and recovery (preparedness planning, emergency response organisations, training systems, early warning systems, search and rescue)

TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF CAPACITIES FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION, RESPONSE AND RECOVERY IN SPECIFIC CONTEXTS, THE PROJECTS CAN ENTAIL:

- Development of legal frameworks
- Development of institutional frameworks
- Organisational development
- Development of resources (human and material)

The SRSA focuses its projects on the development of national capacities in partnership with national authorities and organisations, with the emphasis on how these entities can implement changes on all societal levels and, when applicable, also on the importance of regional cooperation.

Countries with similar risk profiles can work together to prevent and limit damage after disasters. In West Africa a project has been initiated, involving three countries; aimed at improving disaster mitigation and preparedness capacity. Furthermore, the SRSA also coope-

rates with different international organisations and UN agencies.

RECOVERY

The SRSA defines recovery in broader terms than just the rehabilitation and reconstruction of infrastructure. A disaster-affected community, be it through natural disasters or armed conflict, needs to recover much more than just infrastructure. Also, after a disaster or at the end of an armed conflict, a possibility to not only rebuild but also improve, presents itself. The notion of improving during recovery is at the core of SRSA Recovery operations. The incorporation of Disaster Risk Reduction measures in recovery integrates the rebuilding of societies and making them safer.

A collapsed infrastructure limits options for assistance and development in a country. By improving damaged infrastructure public services are re-established, which is a prerequisite for continued development. This has included, for example, the building of bridges, roads etc. in close cooperation with authorities, organisations and people in areas ravaged by armed conflict.

The SRSA can contribute to the reconstruction of roads, bridges, water and sewage systems and waste management installations. The competence of the SRSA means that we can participate in both initial and more permanent recovery work – covering all stages during and after disasters and armed conflicts.

To this end, the SRSA works partly with the reconstruction of roads and bridges, and partly with providing international and national organisations and authorities with sector-specific expertise, i.e. supporting ongoing efforts. This may include urban planning, WASH, disaster waste management and environmental expertise.

TRAINING COURSES

Training is an important component of SRSA activities. The SRSA provides a range of courses and exercises for partners such as NATO/PfP, UN, WFP, OCHA and UNHCR - often in conjunction with their respective training programmes.

Examples of courses provided by the SRSA:

NATO/PFP COURSES

- International environmental disasters
- Staff training
- International humanitarian operations
- Information management

UN COURSES

- Support staff training
- Civil-military coordination
- Civil emergency planning
- Emergency response training
- Emergency management workshop
- OSOCC training
- INSARAG awareness

EU COURSES

- Community mechanism induction course
- Operational management course
- High-level coordination course
- High-level refresher course
- Staff training

FUNDING

The majority of SRSA operations are financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). Sida is Sweden's coordinating authority for aid. Its purpose is to create prerequisites for poor people to improve their living conditions.

COOPERATION PARTNERS

Our main cooperation partners are:

- WFP (We are a stand-by partner for them)
- UN OCHA
- Unicef
- UNHCR
- UNDP
- UNMAS
- UNOPS
- EU
- AFDEM (African Civilian Standby Roster for Humanitarian Relief and Peacekeeping Missions)
- Save the Children
- Red Cross

GENDER

Natural disasters and armed conflicts affect women and men differently due to social, political and economic structures in society. Because the effects of conflicts and disasters follow gender specific patterns, the SRSA aims to include a gender perspective in its interventions and train recruited personnel on gender related issues with the help of gender experts. The SRSA can also provide personnel with specific competence in and with gender issues as their main task.

**Our goal is to be present in more places,
and contribute to creating**

How to request assistance from the SRSA.

**OFFICIAL REQUESTS
CAN BE FORWARDED
TO THE FOLLOWING
POINTS OF CONTACT:**

Tel +46 550 411 460

Fax +46 550 411 960

E-mail operations@srsa.se

The SRSA can receive requests for assistance 24 hours a day. Each request will be treated as a separate case and analysed according to the SRSA's mandate and areas of expertise. In order to initiate a mission the SRSA requires confirmation of the type of funding, from funding in-kind to cost sharing or external funding.

Therefore, it is vital that each request is as detailed as possible and includes information such as: type of mission, time frame, location and duty station, safety and security measures and points of contact for administrative matters. The SRSA's goal is rapid deployment and to be able to handle requests and provide response within 72 hours.

help more people
a safer and more secure world.

Swedish Rescue Services Agency

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