



Swedish Civil
Contingencies
Agency

MSB International Operations



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Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB)

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MSB Operational Assignment

MSB vision: a safe society in a complex and evolving world.

The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) is a government authority mandated to enhance societal capacities for the prevention and managing of emergencies and crises. MSB's remit covers the entire scale of threats and risks, from everyday accidents to major catastrophes, which is applicable in Sweden and abroad. With responsibilities in civil protection, public safety, emergency management, risk reduction and civil defence, MSB has expertise and experience working in all stages of the emergency cycle. In other words, before, during and after the occurrence of emergencies, crises and disasters.

The MSB Coordination and Operations Department is located in Stockholm, Karlstad and Kristinehamn and has an elaborated operational structure including the following functions: duty-officer, analysis, coordination, security, crisis communication, project coordination, cross-cutting issues, human resources, health, training, logistics, equipment etc. The foundation of the operational assignment rests on three pillars: supporting national preparedness; enhancing coordination; and providing expertise and equipment.

This brochure aims at explaining MSB's international operations and focuses on:

- *expertise and equipment and;*
- *is intended for current and future partners.*

That is: who we are, what we do and how we can support.

"With 30 years' experience of combining national and international operations, we have built a robust system that delivers skilled expertise and high quality equipment, to our partners and ultimately to people in need or facing disaster risks."

*Anneli Bergholm Söder,
Director, Coordination and
Operations Department, MSB*

Mandate and Support

Whether in emergency or development contexts, we work with your agency on prevention, preparedness and response.

MSB has a national and international mandate, steered by the Swedish government via a body of instructions and annual appropriations. The work in the international arena is based on those mandates, the experience of working in all stages of the emergency cycle and a commitment in cross-cutting issues such as gender and the environment. MSB's support is anchored in Sweden's official policy for development cooperation and humanitarian assistance and internationally agreed conventions and summits. MSB has divided its support into thematic areas, with the aim of saving lives and reducing human suffering, strengthening resilience and reducing disaster risks. This means that the humanitarian and development programs are not necessarily sequential and that MSB works with prevention and response at its centre and sustainable development as its goal.

"We work with the whole spectrum of crisis and disasters – ranging from preparedness, humanitarian assistance, recovery to development programming – and has made bridging the humanitarian-development divide a priority."

*Jakob Wernerman,
Section Chief,
International Operations, MSB*



MSB national and international resources can be used interchangeably. This is an example of when tents were used temporarily in Southern Sweden, as a result of a large refugee influx.

Partners

Partnerships are at the core of MSB's operations. MSB has established partnerships with multi-lateral organisations such as the UN and the EU, the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), governments and private companies. MSB has regulated most of its partnerships through international agreements (MOUs), or mission specific agreements, to ensure that expectations, roles and responsibilities are clear to all parties.

"The partnership with MSB in Cameroon, is a unique opportunity, where safe and dignified Women Cohesion Spaces have been provided for GBV survivors. These constructions, in solid materials with electricity, water and operational tools, are now being used by all humanitarian actors. This support will eventually be transferred to the government, thus creating a link between humanitarian and development."

*Adama Moussa,
UN Women Representative, Cameroon*

Funding

Most deployments and projects are funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). Other funding channels include the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the EU and the UN etc. Each mission requires a specific request for funds to be submitted for approval. Depending on the project, it can range from full funding from Sida (or another donor), cost-sharing arrangements or full funding from the requesting organisation.

"Over many years MSB has proven a reliable and committed partner within the European Civil Protection Mechanism, providing highly valued expertise and assets."

*Peter Billing, Head of Unit,
DG ECHO A.2 Emergency Preparedness
and Security, European Commission*

Field Staff Roster

MSB has approximately 1350 active members in its field staff roster. These experts work, for example, in construction, disaster risk reduction, emergency response, environmental assessment and support, humanitarian assistance, information and communications technology (ICT), information management, logistics, health, mine action, security, water and sanitation. All roster members have experience within their technical fields and are normally recruited from civil society, multilateral organisations or the private sector. The MSB field staff are required to attend a mandatory induction training and may be offered to deepen their technical skills in specialised trainings. MSB strives for diversity in gender, competence, experience, age and ethnicity in all recruitments, deployments and team compositions. The roster includes experts with experience ranging from 5 to 15 years or more (UN P2-D1).

“Going on mission means that MSB organises everything from training, health insurance, personal equipment, visa, accommodation, home-leave, repatriation and debrief.”

Jessika Bohr, Humanitarian Affairs and Preparedness Officer, MSB Field Staff

“On a daily basis, I work as lecturer and researcher on Disaster Risk Management at a university in Sweden. I combine my work with going on mission for MSB.”

Magnus Hagelsteen, Preparedness and Capacity Development Specialist, MSB Field Staff

“I really appreciate that I can support receiving agencies in a critical moment, when and where most needed.”

Anna Hjärne, Environmental Field Advisor, MSB Field Staff

The average length of MSB deployments is 6 months, but can range from 2 weeks to several years, depending on the needs and program.

Training and Exercises

Each year, MSB conducts and hosts approximately 60 international trainings and field based simulation exercises, for MSB field staff members and partners. In addition to the MSB Field Staff Induction Course, specialised trainings and exercises are offered in the following areas: disaster waste management, ICT, environment, coordination and assessment (UNDAC/EUCP), logistics, information management, mine action, security, host nation support, capacity development, disaster risk reduction (DR4), simulations etc.



Field based simulations exercise.



MSB college Revinge.



MSB college Sandö.

Equipment and Logistics

MSB's warehouse is set-up to ensure the deployment of equipment and logistical resources with 6 to 72 hours' notice. The warehouse is stocked with trucks, vehicles, ICT equipment, generators, personal safety equipment, clothes, medical equipment, mine clearance equipment, tents, containers for accommodation and offices, water purification plants etc. Most of the equipment is on-shelf, but MSB also has framework agreements for on-demand deliveries.

MSB cooperates with cargo and regular flight companies to ensure accessibility and speed in obtaining flights on the international market.

"The MSB experts and logistical services have been instrumental in WFP's life-saving food assistance and resilience programmes."

Ramiro Armando de Oliveira Lopes da Silva, Assistant Executive Director, WFP



Quality assurance and packing of ICT equipment.

Project Management

The support to MSB's partners is always managed as a project. Each project defines aims, expected results and deliverables. With a dedicated team of project managers, MSB firmly believes that using this model increases the operation's quality, flexibility, efficiency and the fulfilment of high-end results. The MSB project management model includes tested routines (medevac, anti-corruption, risk analysis, gender and environmental grading etc.), policies (environment, security) and tools (budget management, funding applications, documentation database etc.) for project planning and implementation in order to strengthen accountability to partners and funders and ultimately to people in need or facing disaster risks. Project management is normally conducted at headquarters in Sweden, but can also be rotated to the field.



Lessons Learned

Part of the project management cycle is to ensure that lessons learned are identified, analysed and incorporated into future projects. MSB works with various tools to ensure this, ranging from project reviews, partner and personnel satisfaction surveys and other quality indicators, performance assessments, audits, debriefings and learning sessions etc. MSB believes that critical reflection and systematic organisational learning contribute to a more focused results culture.

Duty Officer System

The MSB Duty Officer (TiB) is tasked to detect, verify, alert and inform about serious events and to initiate and coordinate the initial operational work. This function monitors national and global events to enhance the ability to respond to situations within MSB's areas of responsibility. As such, the TiB is a 24/7 function that receives alarm calls and collates and processes information. If necessary, the TiB can establish the regular operational functions after hours, such as initiating assistance to partners or MSB field staff.



Security and Health

MSB staff will work under the requesting organisation's overall management and security arrangements, unless otherwise agreed. In most cases, MSB staff will be considered *Experts on Mission* and included in the security arrangements of multilateral organisations. Security and staff welfare is included in the MSB induction training, where the experts will familiarise themselves with the available MSB back-office system, including the duty-officers, security advisors, health and counselling services. All MSB field staff roster members undergo a health and welfare examination prior to departure and continue to have access to these services after the deployment have come to an end.



MSB security training in high-risk situations.

Cross-cutting Issues

Gender, diversity and environmental sustainability are applied and integrated in all MSB support, on a policy and operational level. MSB believes that cross-cutting issues should be prioritised, not only for ethical and human rights principles, but also that it secures better results, equality and sustainability. For example, gender and vulnerability aspects are integrated in all projects directly or indirectly as well as minimising the environmental footprints of MSB's actions and projects. MSB field staff are required to sign the MSB Code of Conduct, which includes limitations and respectful behaviour in terms of e.g. gender, vulnerable groups and environmental impact. As such, cross-cutting issues underpin all MSB efforts and operations.



MSB HQ and field staff take part in the inauguration of the MSB built guesthouse for humanitarian workers in Cameroon. The project integrated gender and environmental aspects throughout the process.

Networks

MSB is part of several networks, for example:

- International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP): <http://www.ihp.nu/>
- Stand-by Partnership (SBP): <https://www.standbypartnership.org/>
- Early Recovery Cluster: <http://earlyrecovery.global/>
- United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination: <https://www.unocha.org/country/what-we-do/coordination-tools/undac/overview>
- Strategic Advisory Group on Environment and Emergencies (SAGEE) b: www.eecentre.org

International Humanitarian Partnership

MSB is active in the International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP), which is a voluntary multinational operational network between eight emergency management agencies in Europe. Each agency of the IHP is a part of, funded by and supported by their respective governments. The strength of the IHP lies in the flexibility and capacity to combine national resources to deliver joint response efforts in case of disasters and complex emergencies. For example, the IHP has standardised modules, such as large base camps for aid workers. To date, the IHP has delivered more than 100 joint deployments to assist emergency response efforts around the world.



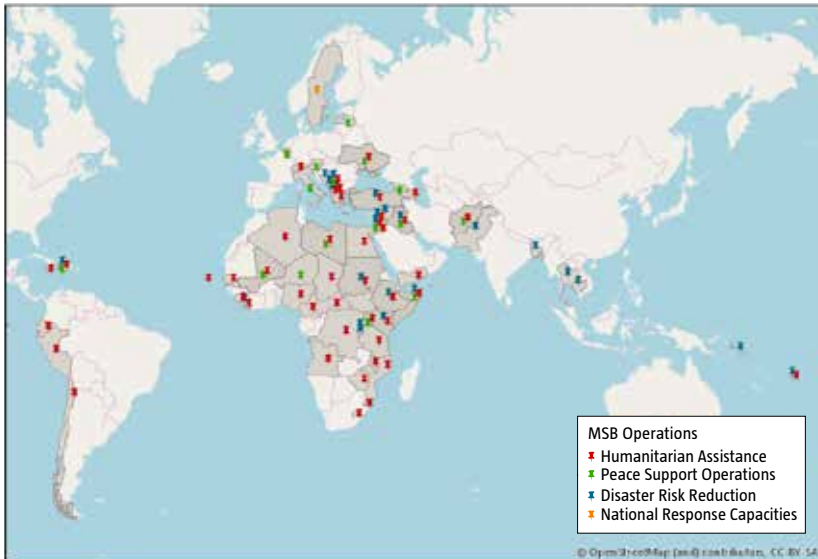
IHP support to the Zaatari refugee camp.



IHP base camp Charlie in Haiti.

Priority Countries and Regions

MSB's support and programs are needs driven, resulting in an engagement across a variety of countries and regions. Priority countries and regions are developed on a yearly basis, but as the situation in the world is constantly changing, MSB's geographical priorities are continuously updated.



On average, MSB conducts 60–70 international operations simultaneously, which means over 100 field staff at any given moment.

Thematic Areas of Support

MSB has clustered its support into thematic areas, based on MSB's mandate, humanitarian and development experience and commitment in cross-cutting issues. The national and international resources can be used interchangeably and takes its steppingstone in the comparative advantage of being a national preparedness and emergency management agency. Each thematic area includes screened and trained staff, equipment and methods.

The thematic areas listed below are divided, for clarity, into national response teams, humanitarian assistance, resilience programs and peace support operations. However, MSB strives to avoid such divisions and aims to provide support to partners, stakeholder and affected populations by using a programmatic approach, when suitable and appropriate. The programmatic approach means that MSB uses its entire toolbox of thematic areas to consider needs and to plan for humanitarian and development programs in parallel, to ensure sustainability and fulfilment of aggregated results.

"MSB has the flexibility to provide comprehensive solutions, tailor the support and to combine areas of expertise and resources, depending on the needs and requirements."

*Britta Ramberg,
Deputy Section Chief,
International Operations, MSB*

Thematic areas of support include:

- Experts (individuals or teams)
- Support modules (equipment and staff)
- Training and exercises
- Capacity development



National response teams: MSB-flood barriers protecting critical societal infrastructure.



Humanitarian assistance: the planning phase for support with temporary shelter and permanent structures in 6 locations in northern Uganda.



Resilience Programming: MSB support with risk informed programming at country level in Malawi.



Peace support operations: MSB Camp CIS Officer supporting the EULEX mission in Kosovo.

National Response Teams

In line with MSB's national mandate, a set of response teams are available. They are mainly for domestic use, but may be requested as individual experts, teams or equipment modules by international partners.

MSB resources (expertise and equipment) available through the EU Voluntary Pool:

- High capacity pumps
- Flood barriers
- Shoreline oil spill protection
- Office and ICT support (TAST)
- ICT helpdesk
- Tents
- Air Ambulance (SNAM)

Rescue Operations

These teams include expertise and equipment related to forest fires, floods, chemical or oil emissions and extreme weather. It includes, but is not limited to, Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), INSARAG-trained experts, search-dogs and advanced equipment.

Staff profiles: CBRN Response Teams, Oil- and Flooding Teams, USAR Experts etc.

Equipment: CBRN and Oil Equipment, High Capacity Pumps and Flood Containment Equipment, Containers with Fire Extinction Equipment, USAR equipment etc.

“As the flooding escalated rapidly... we asked for support from MSB. The equipment arrived shortly after, with staff that explained how it should be set up and how to operate it. The MSB pumps and barriers ensured a continuance of electricity and thus the protection of vital societal functions and critical infrastructure”.

*Magnus Ericson,
Fire Engineer,
Halmstad municipality*



Rapid Response Teams

The Swedish National Air Medevac (SNAM) is a large scale Air Ambulance with medical staff and equipment for intensive care. It is available for medical evacuation of severely injured patients following a disaster where care and evacuation is needed. The Swedish Response Team (SRT) is a multi-task unit that can be activated to assist Swedish citizens and residents, who have been affected by a serious incident overseas.

Staff profiles: Coordinator, ICT, Doctor, Nurse, Medical Technician, Air Operational Staff, Psychosocial Support, Voluntary Support, Logistician etc.

“The rationale behind the SNAM and the SRT teams is to rapidly assist Swedish citizens, residents (or others) struck by tragic events abroad. We work as a team, together with other actors to coordinate with respective authorities in-country of arrival to ensure that those affected get the best help possible.”

*Karin Hugelius,
Team Coordinator SNAM and SRT,
MSB Field Staff*

Coordination Support

MSB can support affected municipalities, authorities and other actors with experts and equipment to support management, coordination, communication and Host Nation Support (HNS) in case of incoming international assistance.

Staff profiles: HNS Expert, Liaison Officer, Operations, Planning Officer, Logistics Officer, Information Management, ICT etc.

Humanitarian Assistance

The humanitarian experts, equipment and trainings are available to MSB's partners to enhance the response capacity in natural disasters and complex emergencies. With 30 years' experience, starting with international search and rescue missions, the MSB humanitarian assistance has evolved to include infrastructure, logistics, information management, coordination, shelter, water and sanitation and mine action. These thematic areas have been complemented with cross-cutting issues. Some of the thematic areas in this section can also be used resilience or peace support contexts, for example infrastructure, logistics, coordination, information management, environment, mine action, water and sanitation, gender etc.

"I have seen MSB in action in the deep field providing much needed services to allow the humanitarian community to respond more effectively in major crises. I saw this first hand with MSB providing a fully functioning camp for earthquake responders in Pakistan and Nepal, and supporting the humanitarian community in a serious conflict like Yemen. In these situations speed, efficiency and dependability are essential for an assured response. This is something that MSB delivers consistently."

*Jamie McGoldrick,
Humanitarian Coordinator, Yemen*



MSB staff and equipment on their way to support the humanitarian crisis in Cox Bazar, Bangladesh.



Coordination support during and after the hurricane Irma in the Caribbean.



MSB support (in collaboration with Lions) with temporary shelter solutions in Liberia.



Support with renovations and establishment of permanent structures in 3 locations in the Central African Republic (CAR) to enable humanitarian presence.

Infrastructure, Construction and Logistics

By strengthening infrastructure, construction and logistics, the aim is to enable humanitarian access, increase response capacity and facilitate coordination. MSB supports its partners with logistics and infrastructure solutions, often in remote areas, to improve living and working conditions for humanitarian and aid workers. Base camps and prefabricated facilities can be deployed on short notice to emergency situations and longer term fixed construction can be provided to facilitate field presence and response operations. These support modules normally include kitchen and sanitary solutions and can be upgraded to include security and medical support, to ensure a safe working environment. The equipment will normally be donated at the end of each mission and the management and maintenance responsibilities handed over to the requesting organisation.



MSB support with prefabricated facilities in Greece.



The erection of a fully equipped prefabricated camp in northern DRC.

Staff Profiles: Architect, Construction Engineer, Site Planner, Camp Manager, Camp Technician, Electrical Engineer, Bridge Expert, Road and Water Engineer, Water Engineer, Water Supply Expert, Medical Doctor, Registered Nurse, Security Officer, Logistics Officer (Air Movement, Transport, Warehouse, Convoy, Mechanic, Workshop Manager) etc.

Equipment: light, medium and heavy Base Camp, Prefabricated Facilities, Coordination Centres, Permanent Structures etc.

“In North-East Nigeria, I have seen the work of MSB planning, building and running our field camp for hundreds of humanitarian workers. These nine planned and already constructed heavy base camps and deep field humanitarian hubs are equipped to allow humanitarian workers to work longer periods of time among affected populations in otherwise inaccessible areas. MSB manages and runs these camps in accordance with environmental and gender policies. I believe MSB has been an instrumental part of the humanitarian scale-up in North-East Nigeria, and for that we are grateful.”

Peter Lundberg, Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator, Nigeria



MSB/IHP base camp Red Roof in Maiduguri, Nigeria. The camp consists of safe accommodation, offices, sanitary facilities, kitchen, water purification, electricity and power distribution, medical facilities etc.

Coordination and Information Management

MSB provides support with field coordination through the deployment of staff, equipment and training, with the aim of contributing to fact based interventions and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the humanitarian response. Through a range of expertise within coordination and information management, MSB supports the decision-making process by contributing to e.g. needs assessments, analyses, setting of humanitarian priorities, development of common plans and monitoring progress.

MSB also works to provide reliable communication infrastructure and services to facilitate coordination and information sharing. MSB can establish and maintain coordination platforms and hubs to facilitate coordination in emergency and humanitarian situations.

“When deployed with MSB to the UN, I appreciate the unique opportunity to contribute to the humanitarian response, its coordination and improving existing practices through bringing in an objective perspective and my expertise in information management and strategic planning.”

*Cecilia Utas,
Information Management Officer,
MSB Field Staff*



Staff Profiles: Humanitarian Affairs Officer, UNDAC-member, EU Civil Protection Expert, Coordination Expert, Civil-Military Officer, Assessment Expert, Emergency Specialist, Early Recovery Advisor, Information Management Officer, GIS Expert, Reporting Officer, ICT Expert, Radio Room Technician or Manager etc.

Equipment: IT and radio equipment, office-in-a-box.

Shelter, Water and Sanitation

In an effort to rapidly establish basic services to an affected population, MSB supports its partners with expertise and equipment. Access to adequate shelter in humanitarian emergencies is critical and MSB can provide emergency shelter, in line with the SPHERE guidelines, to support the protection of affected populations. Furthermore, MSB can provide support to the planning and establishment of refugee and IDP settlements and reception centers through provision of expertise within site planning and shelter. Clean water, basic hygiene facilities and hygiene practices are essential for survival in emergencies and MSB can provide expertise within WASH to minimise water contamination, ensure safe hygiene practices and the provision of safe drinking water. MSB also strives to ensure that gender, vulnerability and the environmental considerations are integrated into the projects.



MSB water and sanitation project in Pakistan.



MSB shelter support in Dohuk, Iraq.

Staff Profiles: Site Planner, Shelter Officer, WASH Expert etc.

Equipment: Family Emergency Shelter.

Environmental Support

MSB supports the humanitarian and aid community with managing specific environmental emergencies and ensuring integration of environmental aspects in humanitarian response and development programming. The aim is to enhance environmental performance and to reduce the environmental footprint. This includes providing support to rapid environmental assessments, deployments of environmental field advisors and implementation of disaster waste management operations. In practical terms, this thematic area aims at robust environmental management and energy smart solutions in projects with significant environmental aspects.

“Having been deployed on many MSB missions, it has become clear to me that we make a difference and that disaster waste management is key for reconstruction.”

*Thorsten Kallnischkies,
Disaster Waste Management Advisor,
MSB Field Staff*



MSB support to UNEP/UN Environment with managing health care risk waste in Haiti.

Staff Profiles: Disaster Waste Management (DWM) Expert, Environmental Field Advisor (EFA), Environmental Expert etc.

Gender

MSB works with mainstreaming gender equality and ensuring that Gender Based Violence (GBV) concerns are taken into consideration in humanitarian- and resilience programmes. The MSB experts contribute to gender equality outcomes and ensure that gender and diversity perspectives influence processes and programming. In this work, participation, access and protection of the target group of the operations is key. The focus is to change management and practices, to develop and roll out methods and tools and to strengthen the capacities of organisations and individuals to secure a gender sensitive response. MSB's work within GBV includes prevention, mitigation, response and more specifically the development and implementation of GBV programmes that provide safe and survivor-centred services to affected populations.



MSB Gender Advisor seconded to OCHA CAR conducts GBV-training of humanitarian actors in Berberati. The aim of the training is to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches women, men, boys and girls, regardless of differences in age and gender.

Staff Profiles: Gender Advisor, GBV Specialist etc.

Mine Action

MSB works with the mitigation of explosive threats, such as explosive remnants of war (ERW) in conflict and post-conflict settings. This includes technical expertise in various areas of mine action: explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) with expertise in manual and mechanical clearance, information management for mine action (IMSMA), risk education and weapon and ammunition management (WAM) etc. In addition to mine action profiles, MSB contributes with technical support to mine action programmes, such as medical support and medical training packages, construction and logistics. The expertise can be applied in post-conflict areas or emergency crises that include explosive threats, as well as long-term capacity building.



“MSB is a strategic partner that has allowed UNMAS to respond quickly time and time again, for over 20 years in emergency situations, to save lives by neutralising/mitigating the risk from explosive weapons to peace keepers, humanitarian aid workers and the civilian populations in affected states.”

Paul Heslop, Chief, Programme Planning and Management Section, UNMAS

A multi-year project to support the UN in Lebanon with clearance of explosive remnants of war. The project included mechanical clearance capacity and training of national staff in search and clearing agricultural land from cluster munitions.

Staff Profiles: EOD Expert, Technical Advisor, Mine Medic, Quality Assurance Expert, IMSMA Expert, Risk Education Expert etc.

Equipment: EOD team kit for rapid response deployment (survey and clearance), armoured front-end loaders for mechanical clearance etc.

Resilience Programs

MSB resilience programs aims to strengthen society's ability to recover from shocks and hazards, by using risk management tools and capacity building in parallel. The programs include institutional and operational support to strengthen society's capacity to prevent, anticipate, mitigate and manage future disasters and crises. The support spans from short-term analytical support to long-term resilience building efforts, where MSB engages with national actors in capacity development partnerships. MSB's bilateral capacity development support works with organisations and governments to link preparedness, response, risk and vulnerability assessments, disaster risk reduction, crisis coordination and civil protection capacities, to reduce vulnerabilities and strengthen resilience.

"Over the years MSB and UNDP have increasingly worked together in crisis- and recovery settings in the areas of crisis coordination, preparedness, early recovery and humanitarian development nexus, disaster risk reduction, disaster waste management, information management, security and gender and women's empowerment. MSB experts contributed to UNDP initiatives with the highest level of professionalism often by working side-by-side with partner agencies and national counterparts. Looking ahead, we view the partnership with MSB growing stronger in the years to come."

*Bruno Lemarquis Director a.i.,
Crisis Response Unit, UNDP*



MSB support in the aftermath of the typhoon Haiyan, Philippines, focused on strengthening local actors with risk analysis, early warning, preparedness and bridging the emergency and development phase.

Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction

This thematic area involves identifying and assessing needs and capacities within an organisation, system or program. MSB's program includes assessing both technical and functional capacities and gaps and to provide policy and advisory support, and can encompass a national system as a whole, or focus on specific or parts of organisations.

"In the West African region, the IFRC was fortunate to have the support of MSB and the Swedish Red Cross, in developing a strong community based early warning system, contingency planning capacities and national disaster management policies."

Dr Jemilah Mahmood, Under Secretary General – Partnerships, IFRC

Staff Profiles: DRR Officer, DRM Officer, Preparedness Officer, PDNA / PCNA etc.



MSB capacity development partnership with the national Red Cross societies in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Nigeria for 4.5 years focused on disaster preparedness and crisis management. The support aimed at strengthening the capacities of the Red Cross to prepare and respond to future emergencies. Activities included organisational and policy reviews and development, training, clarifying roles and responsibilities, development and training on contingency plans and early warning systems etc.



Training of the local Tappita Redcross Liberia in early warning systems, primarily in flooding scenarios.

Crisis Coordination

Through experiences from the national role as the primary Government agency responsible for crisis coordination, as well as from supporting coordination in international response efforts, MSB can offer specialised expertise to other countries' efforts to establish crisis coordination, information management and communication structures, processes and tools. For example, MSB can support the planning and setting up of joint coordination and management centers and platforms, the development of tools for coordination between sectors, Duty-Officer systems, information management and analysis structures, development of methods and tools for cross-sectoral communication with the public, including collated web information etc.

"The collaboration between our governments has resulted in a stronger crisis response capacity in the Kurdistan region. The MSB crisis management capacity building support has enhanced our organisation, crisis response network, daily mandated activities and the support we provide to our partners and beneficiaries in an effective and efficient way."

*Hoshang Mohamed, Director General,
Joint Crisis Coordination Centre,
Kurdistan Regional Government, Iraq*



Planning phase with the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management (MoHADM) Somalia, to verify common ground for a MSB-MoHDM capacity development project in crisis coordination.



Crisis Management and Risk Assessment training for staff at the Joint Crisis Coordination Centre (JCC), where visualisation of threats and risks in the region were conducted.

Staff Profiles: Coordination Expert, Information Liaison Officer, Duty-Officer, Crisis Communication Expert, Aid Coordination, Training Officer, Information Management, Analysis Expert, Gender Advisor etc.

Risk and Vulnerability Assessment

This thematic area includes identifying and evaluating risks and vulnerabilities at local, regional and national level, as well as integrating risk data in prevention and development work. Drawing upon MSB's national expertise and coordinating role in this area, experts, work methodologies and analytical support can be provided to governments, civil society and international organisations. MSB can assist in developing capacities for risk assessments, including systems and processes, for geographical areas or sectors involving various stakeholders. Support may include assistance in implementation of processes for Disaster Loss Data collection, set up of Electronic Risk Atlas, aggregation of Risk Data from local to national or regional level, for the benefit of better risk information sharing and understanding of risks. This is a vital component of risk reduction and climate change adaptation initiatives.

“One of the things that strikes me the most about working for MSB is the unique project management model and the dedicated team of experts. As lead in a consortium with Croatian, Italian and Slovenian members, MSB has built partnerships, using an all-inclusive approach. It also impresses me that MSB takes a clear position when it comes to the added value of integrating cross cutting issues such as gender and environmental impacts.”

*Cvetka Tomlin,
IPA DRAM Team Leader,
MSB Field Staff*



Regional workshop, as part of the program “Disaster Risk Assessment and Mapping in the Western Balkans and Turkey” (IPA DRAM) implemented by MSB-led consortium, held in Montenegro. The aim of the workshop was to share good practices among partners and EU member states to improve effective and coherent national systems for disaster loss data collection, risk assessment and mapping.

Staff Profiles: Risk Analysis Specialist, Preparedness Officer etc.

Civil Protection Preparedness for Response

This thematic areas involves the development or reinforcement of a country's emergency management systems. Based on the national experience and expertise, MSB can support other civil protection institutions and rescue services. More specifically but not limited to, MSB works with capacity development of institutions using an all-hazard approach supporting preparedness planning processes, development of training institutions for rescue services and civil protection, establishing, developing and training of USAR teams as well as hazard-specific response capacities for flood response, firefighting, CBRNE, oil spill etc.



MSB multi-year capacity development project with the Tajikistan civil defence to strengthen earthquake preparedness. The project included, for example, training of national firefighters and instructors, strengthening of logistical systems and contingency and preparedness plans. The photo illustrates a rescue worker training heavy concrete drilling in Dushanbe.

Staff Profiles: Contingency Planning Expert, Civil Protection Expert, USAR Expert, Flood Expert, Fire Protection Expert, Oil Spill Expert, CBRNE Expert etc.

Peace Support Operations

MSB seconded experts within the framework of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), the Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH), Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the UN's peace keeping operations. The aim of the support is to contribute to preventing conflicts and provide a decisive response to end hostilities. This is done through support to partners' work in building state and societal resilience, conflict prevention and investments in stabilisation. MSB works together with its partners in peace keeping and peace building processes, primarily through support staff who ensure effective use of resources, timely deliveries, functioning administrative procedures, reducing the environmental impact, security, medical arrangements and services etc. MSB can also use other capacities when needed, for example, in mine action to support disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration processes, information management to strengthen coordination and core government functions to build resilience and further support the execution of the mission mandates.

MSB contributes with experts and equipment, in the field and at HQ level. All experts seconded within peace support operations are Swedish nationals. Most of the support is provided through the standardised recruitment processes of MSB's partners individual or specialised teams of experts for temporary assistance can also be facilitated.

"I have been part of the MSB support to the EU civilian crisis management in Palestine, Kosovo, Libya and Brussels. As MSB field staff, we advise, train and support, within our respective areas of expertise, to strengthen the mission's responsiveness, capacities and cost efficiency. Together with other Swedish government authorities, we ensure that the mission mandate can be fulfilled effectively."

Anders Karlsson, Logistics and Coordination, MSB Field Staff

Staff Profiles: Logistician, ICT Officer, Finance Officer, Procurement Officer, Human Resources Expert, Environmental Advisor, Office and Accommodation Support, Information Management, Security Officer and Medical Expert etc.



MSB has supported the EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM) in Georgia since its inception September 2008, with for example IT staff and equipment, armoured vehicles and drivers, medical assessment and coordination expertise, senior management positions, finance, security, etc.

Requesting Support

MSB's decision to support a requesting organisation or government is based on a number of factors: needs, partners' capacities, MSB's thematic and geographical priorities, humanitarian and development principles, sustainability, funding etc.

Most of MSB's partners have a focal point at headquarters that requests for support should be channelled through, using a specific template and routine. As per this routine, the request should include the overall situation, specific needs linked to this situation, time-frame, longer term staffing plan, exit strategy, duty-station, a terms of reference (TOR). All alerts and requests for support should be sent to the MSB Duty Officer.

Contact MSB

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