



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC  
Humanitarian Aid and SHA



Swiss Emergency Relief  
Switzerland's assistance to nations  
struck by sudden disaster

# Who are we?

We are the Humanitarian Aid of the Swiss Foreign Ministry. We provide assistance to countries struck by sudden disaster. Our focus lies on assisting people in need as well as their governments, whose national capacities are temporarily overstretched to cope with a particular crisis and need short-term support to bridge possible gaps. We do this, only if the affected government accepts or requests our assistance. We provide know-how from our extensive pool of experts and deliver urgently needed humanitarian items and materials. Water and sanitation, logistics, construction, medical support, shelter, cash programmes, urban search & rescue and disaster risk reduction (DRR) are just a few of the areas we specialise in.

Our experts can be on the ground within the shortest possible time, after the government of the affected country has given the green light to receive our assistance.

# How do we work and cooperate?

As national capacities are often strained during times of acute crises, we provide short-term assistance. In cases of natural disaster or sudden outbreak of conflict, deployments usually last a few weeks. During this period of time, our team delivers sustainable, efficient and effective assistance.

It is important to us that we only deliver what the national government requests. We work closely together with the local authorities and national governmental as well as non-governmental organisations. They are much more familiar with the context and cultural sensitivities. Our work is transparent. We aim to assist local authorities, not instruct them. We support the government's life-saving operations, wherever we can, and adapt quickly to new surroundings as well as different cultures and ways of working in our host country.

# What is our mandate?

Our mandate is to save lives and alleviate suffering. We achieve this by complementing the capacities of an affected government to cope with the impact of a crisis. We provide tailor-made assistance without distinction of race, sex, language, religion, political opinion or social status. The four humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence guide all our activities. We do everything to avoid creating dependence. We help the affected government switch from supplying emergency aid to re-establishing essential services to the population in need. Human lives are at the centre of our work.

We offer the following expertise, materials and devices.  
Please note: we tailor our assistance entirely to your needs.

# Water – Sanitation – Hygiene (WASH) Expertise and Material Quick and efficient water treatment



- Support in water quality analysis
- Provision of chlorine
- Provision of and training for chlorine production units to create 4,000l of drinking water per hour
- Clean drinking water distribution
- Provision of water modules (each module contains flexible water reservoirs, fire hoses, pumps and a distribution rack and offers drinking water for up to 10,000 people per day)
- Cleaning wells
- Pumps to remove water from wells (up to 40 metres deep)
- Water experts



## Shelter

### Expertise and Material



- Multi-purpose family tents
- Mosquito nets
- Kitchen sets
- Tarpaulins
- Shelter tool kits
- Shelter experts for camp planning
- Further relief items

## Medicine – Maternal & Child Health Care Team

### Expertise and Material



- Basic medical care in the areas of surgery, paediatrics and obstetrics for around 100 patients
- Support of the local medical infrastructure with both human resources and material



## Technical Expertise

Structural Engineering, Hazardous Materials Specialists,  
Dam Safety and Slope Stability



- Swiss construction engineers help assess structural damage of public and private buildings after an earthquake
- Hazardous Materials specialists measure and locate radiological or chemical contamination and provide advice on measures to be taken
- Slope stability and dam safety experts conduct assessments and advise on mitigating measures

# Relief Items

## Procurement and Delivery



We may mobilise self-reliant logistics capacities: procurement, storage and transportation of relief goods depending on the needs on-site, such as:

- Food and non-food items such as blankets, jerry cans, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, etc. and other items upon request, wherever possible
- Winterisation items such as tent heaters, thermal heat blankets, etc. and other items upon request wherever possible

# Urban Search & Rescue Team (INSARAG Classified Heavy)

## Expertise und Material



- Location and rescue of victims from rubble after earthquake (Working on 2 worksites 24/7 up to 10 days, logistically self-sufficient)
- Provides emergency medical care
- Support to Local Emergency Management Agency
- Support to the International USAR Coordination (according to the INSARAG Methodology)

Contact in Switzerland:  
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Contact in your country:  
Please refer to the Swiss Embassy or the Swiss Cooperation Office