Breakout Group 1: Quality Standards – Compliance of Guidelines and Methodology

I. Summary

During the Türkiye response, the healthcare situation was an issue, with reports of people dying in hospitals due to a lack of treatment and crush syndrome. Additionally, the mental health of the team members involved in the Türkiye and Syria situations must be given due attention.

Operating with the information in the guidelines, practice, consolidation, and the utilization of IEC/R is very important and compliance of these guidelines by focal points is essential as well as close monitoring of their actions.

Maintaining effective communication with other teams involved in the operation is vital. Decision-making and analysis should be based on Area of Search and Rescue (ASR) considerations. And collaborative problem solving is crucial, with all participating teams working in a unified manner to find solutions.

Resource sharing is important, including determining the number of teams needed. However, it should be acknowledged that some teams may choose not to operate in a unified manner. Field practice presents challenges, such as technical issues and the need to test the operational environment.

Efforts to increase the system's capacity, such as selecting and training classifiers, should be discussed. Regular team check-ins and improved communication protocols are necessary to address breakdowns in communication.

From examples presented by Argentina, support from external resources, such as nurses, psychologists, and translators, can greatly aid in operations. Also, as addressed by the Netherlands, the needs of affected communities that have communities residing abroad, like the large Turkish community in the Netherlands, should be considered and addressed.

It is essential to have strong communication, both, prior to and after operations, especially with the media. Collaborating with other teams and addressing security and safety concerns through rigorous testing are important aspects of effective operations.

II. Outcomes

- Guidance regarding Crush Syndrome Treatment must be revised.
• The INSARAG Recognized National Accreditation Process (IRNAP) should be assessed for improvements, and comprehensive post-mission reports should be prepared. Efforts should be made to attract, recruit, train, and deploy more classifiers to address the shortage.

• Emphasizing policy operationalization and mentor responsibilities will enhance compliance. Pre-greening measures should be employed to ensure adherence to guidelines. Furthermore, pilot projects on mentorship should be introduced to gather valuable insights.

• The INSARAG External Reclassification (IER) checklist should be expanded to include more complex scenarios.

• It is essential to identify learning objectives, both technical and non-technical, and incorporate them into scenario-based testing.

• Clear recommendations regarding the deployment of personnel who do not meet the standards' requirements should be provided.

• Avoiding amputations and resolving coordination problems are also critical for successful operations.

• Additional focus should be placed on understanding the experiences and challenges faced by those working with the victims' families. Also, training initiatives, including USAR Coordination Center (UCC) training where a roster should be created and basic training programs, should be established.

**Breakout Group 2: Flexible Response**

**I. Summary**

*Should INSARAG develop a new working group focusing on flood response? [FRWG Sub-group 1]*

During the meeting, the decision was reached to establish a new working group that would focus on flood response with a specific focus on water rescue. This initiative would directly benefit several countries. In addition:

• New focal points were recommended as they would be comprised of different USAR teams.

• The Flood Response Working Group was suggested as a more independent team.
• It should be noted that this does not imply that participation is compulsory for every country.

• The main aim is to expand the mandate of INSARAG. The working group will address water rescue beyond floods, such as landslides.

• The new working group will provide an additional capability without affecting the current classification system.

• The working group will not set new obligatory standards but rather consider existing resources that are free and readily available to avoid duplication of efforts.

_update on DACC. [FRWG Sub-group 2]_

Solveig provided the necessary contextual information that the update pertains to the engineering aspect of the response. Hence, Engineering Damage Assessment Coordination Centre (EDACC) is the appropriate nomenclature. It was further clarified that only licensed structural engineers are authorized to sign the necessary documents required at the end of assessments of non-collapsed buildings to certify the safety of a building. In the absence of their endorsement, such documents hold no validity. Accordingly, it has been proposed that UNDAC assumes a leadership role in this domain during deployments.

During discussions, concerns were raised regarding whether the UNDAC teams understand the technicalities of INSARAG and if UNDAC activities and nomenclatures will confuse people familiar with INSARAG. One group raised the issue that UNDAC should take the lead during a response under the leadership of the affected country, but there was a point of reflection that UNDAC/OCOSCC is the right body since UCC is not responsible for evaluating reopening a building. Some participants noted that UNDAC currently lacks the personnel for this and suggested partnering with INSARAG or Shelter Cluster. There was also a discussion about the DACC, which pairs international licensed engineers with local licensed engineers to assess occupancy, with some expressing the view that the DACC should not be part of the UCC. The EDACC was proposed as an alternative, and there were ongoing discussions about the initial steps for its initiation. It was agreed that the transfer of USAR knowledge to DACC is important, but there is a risk of losing knowledge as USAR team members usually leave when the UCC closes. The potential for INSARAG to bring in extra engineers to support DACC activities was noted, and it was emphasized that UNDAC’s role should be limited to coordination.

• The group endorsed the EDACC.

Share Final Team Leader endorsed guidance note on Urban Search and Rescue at Heritage Sites. [FRWG Sub-group 3]_

During the meeting, it was discussed that there is a challenge in the techniques required by the USAR team to enhance operations. It was also pointed out that these operations can be time-consuming. The object is to have a binding document to respect cultural heritage during operations; it was explained that the main purpose is to avoid further damage by the
USAR teams. A practical suggestion of mapping damaged cultural heritage sites was also put forward.

- All groups agreed on the endorsement of including cultural heritage in INSARAG guidelines.

Breakout Group 3: Localization

I. Summary

Input on the First Responders Package:

- The suggested name for the First Responders Package is the “Community Responder Program”

- Localization efforts through the Community Responder Program should be tailored for individual contexts, allowing countries to choose which parts of the package are relevant to utilize. Agreements and terms of reference (TOR) should be signed regarding which parts of the package will be used.

- The package is useful for countries without an existing USAR model, and it can be used to create train the trainer programs within their communities.

- The package can be translated into local languages to simplify technical terms.

- Continued community engagement following initial trainings is an identified challenge for implementation.

- Facilitator guidelines should be provided to implement the package and train participants of different backgrounds.

- Guidance should be provided in the package regarding communication with the media or social media engagement.

Input Regarding Changeover of the National Accreditation Working Group (NAWG)

Discussions were had regarding the changeover of the NAWG to the National Capacity Building Working Group. This new working group will have a strong focus on localization by introducing the INSARAG coordination methodology and concepts tailored to country contexts, promoting capacity development at the national and local levels, and encouraging sharing of expertise and good practices amongst countries and organizations.

The following suggestions were made during the breakout sessions:
• The idea is sound and maintains knowledge accessibility while strengthening mechanisms to the for network knowledge sharing.
• Priority topics suggested are: host nation support/coordination support.
• To engage member states, the policy focal point can play crucial role to brief their decision makers and policy.
• Raising government awareness and advocacy related to INSARAG’s tools and services. The network should be engaging policymakers.
• Utilize social media and increase online engagement from the INSARAG community.
• Experiences, lesson-learned, and knowledge sharing should be boosted within the INSARAG networks/sharing hub.
• Experiences from member states should be collected and shared throughout the network and for other member states to adopt and learn from.
• A roster of member state capabilities could be helpful.
• Political cycles can challenge the ability of member states to participate actively.
• National coordination and national emergency response plans must be priorities.
• Engagement should begin at the regional level to encourage more active participation from member states.
• Documentation from the NAWG should be published and disseminated to the network.
• Best practice and assessment tools for the national level should be developed.

Breakout Group 4: Complex Emergencies Response

I. Summary

Entering an area with active conflict puts rescuers at a risk of being targeted. Rescue teams operate self-sufficiently with limited resources and face daunting challenges in logistics and access. Safety is never guaranteed for rescuers in any emergency, complex emergencies add significant security concerns for international teams.

The following feedback and challenges were identified during the sessions:
• The UN plays a vital role in negotiating access.
• The need to train teams to respond to insecure environments.
• Conflicting cultures and nationalities of USAR team members may create political sensitivities when responding to complex emergencies.
• Normal coordination structures such as VOSOCC, RDC, OSOCC, and UCC may be inhibited in complex emergencies.
• INSARAG must understand the risk and limitations of working in complex contexts—there is extreme danger to operating in these environments.
• There is currently no clear rule of engagement on how to engage with non-state actors. Volunteers and NGOs based in countries experiencing complex emergencies tend to lack resources and support.
• Some INSARAG teams are civil, and others are military teams. Military teams can bring security elements, but it is unclear if security elements can be brought into affected countries.

II. Outcomes

The following were identified as potential considerations for the INSARAG network to make regarding its role in complex emergencies:

• Identifying teams within the network that currently have the capabilities to deploy to complex emergencies.
• Identify/map key regions and countries that are known conflict zones and determine the likelihood of earthquakes in these areas.
  o For areas with a higher likelihood of earthquakes, work with regional offices and governments to build partnerships and advocacy tools to allow for potential USAR response.
  o INSARAG must clarify its role with governments before an emergency happens there.
  o Key actors and stakeholders in these areas should also be identified and partnerships built in advance.
• Identify potential alternative solutions to INSARAG deployments to complex emergencies.
• Enhanced capacity building efforts to train local responders and communities, decreasing the need for INSARAG to respond.
• Enhanced security environment/arrangements: special teams (armed forces) for security & safety – only if host country allows it; rescuers stay rescuers but have special protective equipment; plus, potentially deployment of mine action teams.
• We need to adapt the INSARAG guidelines to clarify INSARAG’s role in complex emergencies. INSARAG can adapt mechanisms from pre-existing guidelines from international organizations and NGOs regarding access and service delivery in complex emergencies.