Eleven members of the Icelandic international USAR team (ISL01) deployed to Turkey as a UCC/SCC support group. It included 4 UCC trained personnel, 4 logistics and safety members, 2 engineers and a medical doctor. The team landed in Gaziantep and joined the multi-national UCC in Hatay, under the leadership of NDL01, until the team flew to the USA01/02 camp in Adiyaman and ran the UCC from there. After 10 days, the team demobilized, and appreciated the support of AFAD and Turkish Airlines in getting home.

ISL01 took on various other assignments, such as assisting in various ways in the BoO, plan new BoO locations, accompanying the UCC TL to sites, affected areas, and other BoO, our engineers working with other teams, and our doctors collaborating with other doctors in the BoO.

The ability of a group of people from several countries to come together as a team for 24-hour operations under intense circumstances shows the success of INSARAG and the dedication of its members.

The key lesson for INASARAG is that while every mission is guided by the same objective, to save lives, every mission will have its uniqueness, so teams need to train lots of different scenarios to develop much needed adaptability. Also, while teams must make use of the technology available in today’s world, they must also be ready to work when there is technology is not available.