

Jordan Search and Rescue Team



JDR-01

Background

On 6 February 2023, at 04:17 local time (01:17 UTC), a Magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck southern and central Turkey and northern and western Syria. The epicenter was 37 km (23 mi) west-northwest of Gaziantep. It was followed by a Magnitude 7.7 earthquake at 13:24. This earthquake was centered 95 km (59 mi) north-northeast from the first. There was widespread damage and tens of thousands of fatalities.

Very soon after first struck, an automated alert was issued by the Global Disaster Assessment Coordination System (GDACS) confirming the information.



Operational Challenges

1. INSARAG Coordination Structure

Short coordination with HATAY UCC because JOR USAR team allocated by HATAY AFAD (LEMA) to HASSA Municipality in the south close to the northern borders of Syria. After that the BoO location and worksites assigned by the HASSA Municipal (Qa'em Maqam). (communication with UCC was via e-mail and satellite phone, also through V.O/ICMS).

2. Communications

First two days there was constant communication problems especially the lack of internet connection which lead to make many decisions by the Team Management with the LEMA. (The only mean of communication was via satellite phone).



3. USAR Operations

JOR USAR Team was the only international USAR team in the area, so all operations was conducted with the local responders (especially volunteers from local mining workers). Later on the UCC assign the area as (SECTOR 9) with GER-01 and GER-02. (Short coordination during the operation ceased by LEMA in the area.

4. Other Logistical Challenges

In the beginning of operations (first two days) there were lack of fuel rations for operations and BoO.



Lessons Learned

-Turkey Earthquake Mission CONSIDER THE FIRST REAL DEPLOYMENT for JOR-01 since Heavy IEC USAR in 2013 and IER in 2018.

-All missions aspects were lessons learned for JOR-01.

The importance of coordination with (LEMA – INSARAG Community – RDC – UCC – Other Teams - Home Country – Embassy in Affected Country).

