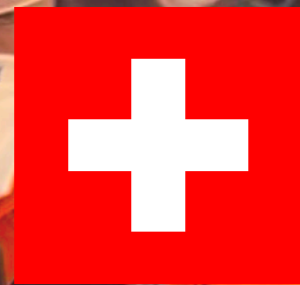


Swiss Rescue



SUI-01

Swiss Rescue was the first international responder on site with 3 experts who set up and operated the RDC at the airport in Adana. Switzerland thus made a significant contribution to the coordination of the international USAR teams.

The heavy USAR team SUI-01 (Swiss Rescue) landed in Adana on 7 February 2023. With this, Swiss Rescue was on site in Hatay/Antakya with 87 people and 8 search dogs within the first 24h to provide assistance.



Swiss Rescue was operational in the rubble and in the area of international coordination for 7 days. Swiss Rescue was replaced by a Rapid Response Team on 12 February. This team conducted humanitarian needs assessments and beyond the rubble activities. Switzerland was thus one of the few countries to ensure a seamless transition from USAR operations to further humanitarian action through the deployment of a multi-sectoral Rapid Response team.



Key Findings:

- An immediate request for international assistance from the host country is essential for rapid deployment and increases the chances for life-saving rescues.
- Rapid decision-making (within hours) is essential for a successful deployment.
- Mobilization must be trained and initiated quickly, perhaps in parallel with the decision-making process.
- Coordination is crucial: RDC and UCC play a central role and are a facilitator for LEMA. All classified teams must stick to the process and conduct training (including ICMS & VO).
- The training of specialists and exercises with partners (incl. IEC/R) are key to success. This also includes training the headquarters, because the back office also plays an important role.
- The IER 13 months before deployment proved to be a valuable quality assurance tool and enabled us to quickly mobilize and deploy.
- The LLs identified in the AARs on different levels must not only be discussed but also implemented.