

Mobile Rescue Center (MRC) of Ukraine



UKR-01

Wins and Challenges

The MRC Ukraine team faced several security issues related to the behavior of the local population. At the BoO location, we requested round-the-clock security, as the local population consistently attempted to enter the camp. We promptly provided medical assistance to those in need. However, when the behavior posed a threat to the safety of our team members, we contacted the military police.

At one of the work sites, the team's interpreter-guide reported the activity of a nearby criminal group. We had to evacuate the team to the base camp immediately. Consequently, we ceased Search and Rescue (SAR) work at night. Nighttime operations resumed only after a military police group was assigned to protect the rescuers at the work site. However, this did not completely resolve the issue. During one operational period, a group of locals spread fake news about the dam's destruction, causing panic and an attempt to seize the rescuers' equipment. In this instance, the military police also succumbed to panic and abandoned our team.

Throughout the deployment, the team encountered repeated problems communicating with LEMA. The lack of centralized communication with LEMA representatives delayed, and sometimes made it impossible to carry out SAR work.



Lessons Learned

On the 9th day after the earthquake, the MRC Ukraine team discovered a woman alive in Sector R, Antakya. The victim had been rescued from the rubble of a residential building and was subsequently handed over to an ambulance. Information about the woman's rescue was relayed to the UCC Manager during the evening Team Leaders Meeting.

During the SAR work, we had to divide our group into several smaller teams. The close proximity of buildings, collapsed structures, and the potential for aftershocks posed a risk to the entire group. Therefore, it was crucial to divide the search and rescue team into multiple subgroups to mitigate the risk of the entire team being trapped.

Team Website

