Wins and Challenges

- Activation and deployment of ESP-01 was fast: the team landed in Türkiye less than 24 hours after the earthquake.
- ERICAM (ESP-01) performed ASR 2, 3 and 4 in Iskenderun and Antakya, with the result of two rescued victims in Iskenderun: the first was found some hours after arriving to the affected area (extracted 57h after the earthquake), and the second on day 7 (extracted 162h after earthquake). In both cases ESP-01 and TUR-04 worked together and shared resources.
- It was challenging to be the only international USAR team established in a sector, far away and with bad connection with UCC. Teams should be prepared for it.
- It was a good experience to collaborate and work side by side with TUR-04, that had been mentored by ESP-01 for their IEC in 2022. They supported ESP-01 with language and cultural translation, liaised with LEMA and helped to provide transport, information and tasking.

Lessons Learned

- Every decision that was taken during the first phase of the deployment showed to have a big influence on the rest of the deployment. Many of those decisions, based on incomplete information, conditioned where, how and with who the team worked.
- Having a strong back office to support decisions and reporting can be of great help when the team is tired, emotionally impacted or have restricted access to information or network. Back office should be trained and planned.
- Having a nice and comfortable BoO was important. Finding a good and secure location and creating a clean and private atmosphere allows the team to recover and to prepare for next tasks.
- Although coordination was difficult, the use of INSARAG Methodology by most international teams created a common framework for operations.
- It is highly recommended to collaborate with local USAR teams, as they will have a better understanding of many aspects of the response and can provide support on language and cultural understanding.

Team Website
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