

# Estonian Disaster Relief Team



EST-01



## Wins

- Positive for EST-USAR was a successfully passed IER in Portugal in December 2022, so everything was fresh and team members felt confident.
- Jandarma and locals living next to our BoO area provided transportation between sites, to UCC and for the logistics as we ourselves did not have any means of vehicle transportation
- Jandarma provided armed security at our BoO, we provided accommodation, showers, toilets and meals to them
- A local Turk on site with our team (not USAR background). She explained to the local survivors how we are working to ease tensions among them who were worried about their loved ones under the rubble. That provided us a better work space with less interruptions.
- People are more creative in a positive way in a disaster situation, they take into consideration that this applies to everybody and they are more responsive.

## Challenges

- VOSOCC platform. Constant inputs of new information (with questionable quality), reliable information gets lost quickly under new incoming information.
- Knowledge about other/ local disaster relief capabilities and skills was unknown on sites

- Local USAR/civil protection authority liaison would be useful for the responding USAR team

## Lessons Learned

- Our BoO solution kept us perfectly resistant all weather related conditions – cold, rain etc (heated tents)
- Tactical foodpack solution provided wide range of meals
- Readiness to deal with media has to be developed more, due to increasing possibilities of online interaction
- Necessity to apply search dogs and search radar
- To be flexible, to be patient, readiness to adapt to situations beyond the written guidelines keeping in mind the humanitarian principles
- Finding air transport is a constant challenge during emergencies, due to high demand in the region
- Providing constant readiness for staff members to be available via communication means (internet, cell phone, SAT phone etc) in any situation during all the phases of the mission cycle
- Communication, briefs to team- there is never enough briefs or information sharing meetings inside the team
- The mission has resulted in re-designing our trainings to more real-life based experience, for example to be more flexible with availability and quality of shoring materials, fine tune confined spaces trainings

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