



In its emergency relief, *Swiss Humanitarian Aid* demonstrates its solidarity with the countries affected. In addition to *Swiss Rescue*, it has a *rapid response team* for swift interventions in natural disasters. These teams can be deployed according to the situation. It also supplies *emergency materials* and makes *financial contributions* to the relevant institutions. It can also make *experts* available to the relevant UN organisations, which means it can respond flexibly and in a targeted manner to the needs of victims.

The emergency relief section of Humanitarian Aid has been certified according to ISO 9001:2021.



Swiss Humanitarian Aid, a section of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), ensures coordination within *Swiss Rescue* as well as deployment readiness. The delegate for Humanitarian Aid is responsible for the decision to deploy. A deployment management team which answers directly to him carries out the deployment.

The Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (SHA) is a militia unit consisting of a pool of 700 experts who are ready to deploy and who can be available within hours for deployments by the *Swiss Rescue* and for actions by *Humanitarian Aid*.



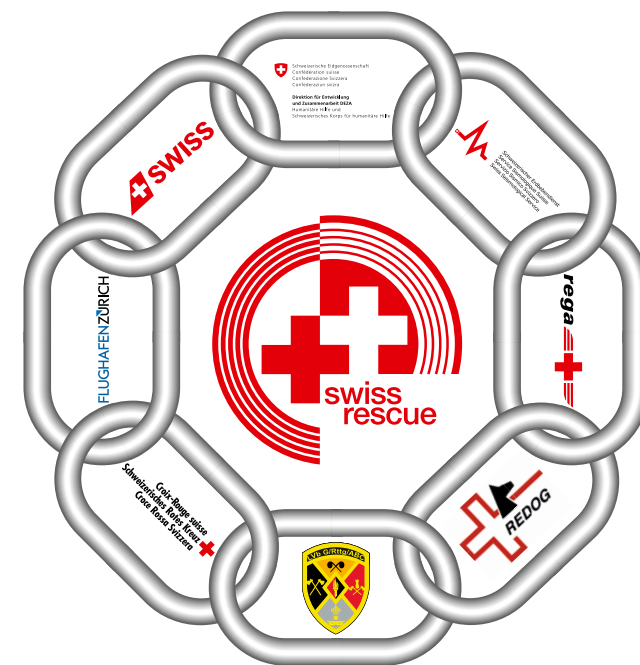
Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

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Swiss Rescue

Saving lives and alleviating suffering



Swiss Rescue is deployed after earthquakes and other disasters abroad and specialises in location, rescue and emergency medical supplies to those that have been buried under rubble. It can rescue people simultaneously on two sites and 24 hours a day, distributes emergency aid material and makes a contribution to the coordination of international aid.

Swiss Rescue is a central instrument of Swiss Humanitarian Aid. It aims to be ready for deployment in the country concerned at the latest 48 hours after the event. This means that Swiss Rescue partners are ready to board aircraft within 10 hours of any decision to deploy. It can operate autonomously for the next 10 days.

Swiss Rescue was founded in 1981 after earthquakes in Algeria and Italy. Since then it has been partly or entirely deployed several times for example in Yemen 1982; Turkey 1983; Mexico 1985; El Salvador 1986; Armenia 1988; Iran 1990; Costa Rica 1991; Turkey 1992; Japan, Greece and Turkey 1995; Iran 1997; Turkey (twice), Greece and Taiwan 1999; India 2001; Algeria 2003; Indonesia 2009, Japan 2011 Mexico 2017, Albania 2019 and Lebanon 2020.

Swiss Rescue operates according to the guidelines of the UN Coordination Unit for Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA/INSARAG). Since 2008 it has been classified as a *Heavy USAR Team*.



Swiss Rescue is a voluntary association of eight private and public institutions:

Swiss Humanitarian Aid (SDC):

- › coordinates cooperation within Swiss Rescue
- › ensures personnel and material readiness to deploy
- › decides on the deployment, carries it out and finances it
- › makes available specialist personnel from the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit

Swiss Seismological Service (SED)

- › sends the alarm within minutes of an earthquake

Swiss Air Rescue (REGA):

- › provides aircraft for the transport of the initial detachment within hours

The Swiss Disaster Dog Association (REDOG)

- › ensures that earthquake victims can be located (dog trainers with rescue dogs and technical location)

The Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport (DDPS):

- › provides rescue specialists and, when necessary, aircraft

The Swiss Committee of the Red Cross (SCRC):

- › delivers and distributes emergency materials.

Swiss International Air Lines:

- › provides aircraft and carries out air transport

Zurich airport

- › provides airport infrastructure and gives logistical support



When it is at full strength, Swiss Rescue consists of

- › 78 persons
- › 8 rescue dogs
- › 17 tons of rescue equipment and logistics material