

Rapid Study Report on the International Search and Rescue Response to the Izmit Earthquake

Terms of Reference:

An immediate, rapid study will be conducted by the Consultant in Turkey to analyse on behalf of the INSARAG Secretariat, the immediate International Search and Rescue response to the earthquake in Turkey on 17 August 1999. The intention of the study is to utilise the ongoing experience of large scale deployment of numerous International Search and Rescue Teams to assess the international SAR response provided to the Government of Turkey in response of the earthquake which took place in West Turkey. The rapid study aims at conducting a quick and practical analysis with a view to learning immediate lessons and ascertaining the strengths and weaknesses of the international search and rescue response to the emergency caused by the earthquake in order to initiate improvements to the system.

The Study will cover the following aspects:

1. Only the immediate international Search and Rescue operations phase in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake emergency in support of the GoT.
2. To analyse and assess the modalities of deployment and information flow regarding International Search and Rescue teams into Turkey with a view to improving and strengthening the functioning of the INSARAG system.
3. To study and analyse the role of the OSOCC and the overall coordination of the international Search and Rescue teams in support of the emergency efforts of the GoT and to make recommendations to improve coordination of international search and rescue response in future.
4. To analyse the factors that influenced decisions making at the capital level in countries providing international Search and Rescue teams, and the United Nations in Geneva, as well as the emergency management authorities in the Government of Turkey and recommend measures to improve and accelerate decision making and information flow for international search and rescue operations in such emergencies in the future.
5. To identify innovative action which was taken for the coordination and utilisation of the International Search and Rescue teams in Turkey with a view of improving the guidelines and standard operating procedures of SAR teams provided for response and coordination of the international Search and Rescue operations in support of local emergency management authorities in future emergencies.

The Consultant in the conduct of the study should interact with all concerned international and national entities involved in this search and rescue phase of the earthquake emergency in Turkey, including Search and Rescue teams who are not members of INSARAG and submit a preliminary report and findings by 5 September 1999. The report should be brief, analytical and include lessons learnt as well as concrete recommendations.