Many years of experience in international operations

MSB personnel have many years of experience working with and providing support to other organizations during and after natural disasters and conflict situations.

In the field of humanitarian assistance the MSB is able to contribute with many different types of support, for example:

- **Base camps** – a comprehensive concept for sophisticated base camps
- **Health care** – flexible health care solutions for, primarily, humanitarian field staff
- **Water, sanitation and hygiene** – from water purification to latrines and waste disposal
- **Housing and basic necessities** – from tent camps to the basic provision of food and supplies
- **Specialists** – recruiting of specialists upon request from other organizations
- **Transportation** – large truck convoys, mechanics, driver training etc.

The MSB’s international operations often start up after a request from a UN organisation. Operations can be of very different types, from emergency search & rescue operations following an earthquake to long-term projects aimed at strengthening a country’s capacity for handling its own future disasters.

**Search and rescue team**

Time is of the essence when searching for survivors after natural disasters. The MSB can send an urban search and rescue team (USAR) within ten hours of a request for assistance. The team consists of up to 74 SAR trained members and 12 rescue dogs. So as not to further burden the affected country the team is self-sufficient for at least 10 days.

After the tsunami in 2004 a new type of team was established to help people usually resident in Sweden affected by a serious emergency while overseas. The Swedish joint response team has the ability to leave Sweden within twelve hours after the decision for deployment has been made.

The MSB works with the entire emergency cycle, in other words, before, during and after the occurrence of emergencies, crises and disasters, which provides good opportunities to adopt a holistic perspective and to gain experience from incidents. Regardless of whether it is one person that is affected, for example, in an accident in the home, or if it is a serious emergency that could have consequences for the entire country or even other countries as well.

The objective of the Swedish Civil Contingency Agency (MSB) is to strengthen society’s ability to prevent and handle accidents and severe peacetime emergencies. Society can learn from past experience by evaluation and follow-up in a continuous process where experience is being used to organise and develop tasks for the actors in the civil emergency planning system. Evaluation and learning from accidents and disasters, supervision and monitoring, need for new research and support for civil emergency planning activities are important tasks in order to strengthen societal security and to support prevention, preparedness, response and recovery throughout the disaster management cycle.
Support for disaster preparedness

In addition to assisting with acute search & rescue and disaster management during and after natural disasters in other countries, the MSB also has a mandate to support disaster preparedness and early recovery.

The MSB’s work in this area focuses on increasing capacities for disaster management through the development of early warning systems. This includes the development of alarm systems, policies, training in risk mapping, risk analysis and risk reduction, structures, the development of strategies for disaster management and preparedness planning, and the strengthening of search and rescue capacities.

The MSB has a multifaceted approach to the support of disaster preparedness. This support is provided partially through long-term capacity development, which aims to strengthen national and local abilities to manage disasters and partially through early recovery, where the focus is on establishing durable infrastructures in order to avoid and mitigate the consequences of future disasters.

Mine Action

20,000 people are killed by mines and unexploded ammunition every year. Mine action is the collective term for a whole range of activities. MSB mine action missions are executed independently, but in many cases in the form of support to various UN bodies, especially UNMAS (United Nations Mine Action Service).

Of all the various fields covered by mine action MSB missions are directed primarily at those connected with mine clearing, in other words missions that directly or indirectly contribute to a reduction in the amount of mines and unexploded ammunition posing a threat.

Apart from actual mine clearing operations the MSB also works with specialists in the field of information management (IMSMA) and the quality assurance of, for example, mine dogs and medical care.