



Swedish Civil
Contingencies
Agency

A partner, where and when needed

The MSB's operational assignment

We enable and support

The MSB's vision

A safer society in a changing world.

When it happens

In collaboration with others, the MSB develops the capacities of the individual and society to prevent, deal with, and learn from emergencies, crises and disasters.

Our work has many dimensions. We contribute to ensuring that societal stakeholders take preventive and preparatory measures, and that those accountable learn from the events that occur.

When an emergency or disaster occurs – in Sweden or elsewhere – the MSB has its own areas of responsibility. In various ways we enable and support others and help them respond where and when needed. This brochure describes that part of our work – the MSB's operational assignment.

Helena Lindberg
MSB Director General



A societal task – in Sweden and the rest of the world

The MSB works to prevent, prepare, manage, and learn from the emergencies, crises and disasters that occur in Sweden and the rest of the world. We create conditions for a safer society.

We respond quickly in Sweden and overseas

The MSB's operational assignment means that we help other actors to function and respond. We create conditions for coordination and can provide support during missions.

We work actively in vulnerable countries to help them develop their capacities for preventing, anticipating, and managing emergencies, crises and disasters.

Our support is steered by need and demand, and is always provided in close cooperation with others.

We maintain round-the-clock, seven-day-a-week emergency preparedness

Our Preparedness Duty Officers provide a 24/7 service that receives alarm calls and collates and processes information from a whole range of sources. The MSB is the point of contact for Swedish disaster assistance, both for providing support to affected countries and for when we need help in Sweden.



Coordination and national support

In the event of serious incidents in Sweden the MSB works to ensure that authorities and other actors cooperate. We take the initiative for coordination conferences, where all concerned have the opportunity to exchange information and to coordinate measures.

The MSB coordinates Swedish assistance and supports international coordination when other countries or UN organisations request support during emergencies, crises and disasters overseas. The MSB is also the point of contact for the EU's service for the arranging of assistance to affected EU countries.

We provide coordinated and correct public information

The web portal krisinformation.se collates information in the form of facts, tips and advice from Swedish authorities regarding what applies before, during and after a serious incident. Information from krisinformation.se can also be read on, for example, teletext and Twitter. In the event of major and long-term incidents the MSB has the option to set up a joint authority telephone line for the public.

Our experts provide support across a wide range of subjects

In the event of serious emergencies and crises the MSB can assist with expertise and act as a contact intermediary. The MSB has its own expertise in many areas, for example, rescue services, hazardous substances, information security and crisis communication.

We have extra resources in reserve

The Swedish municipal fire & rescue service brigades are well equipped to deal with emergencies. If however, their own resources aren't sufficient for the task then the MSB can at short notice assist with extra resources for dealing with forest fires, floods, chemical or oil emissions, and extreme weather. These resources can, when needed, be used in an international context.

The Swedish response team assists Swedish residents in distress overseas

In close collaboration with the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the MSB maintains preparedness to facilitate the assistance of Swedish citizens in the event that they are affected by, for example, extensive natural disasters, terrorist acts, major emergencies, contagious diseases or political unrest when they are overseas.

The Swedish Response Team is manned and equipped in cooperation with the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare, the Swedish Criminal Investigation Department, the Church of Sweden, the Red Cross, and Save the Children Sweden. Some of the tasks of the Swedish Response Team are, for example, to:

- ▶ Establish and manage a coordination staff as support for the Swedish Embassy in the country
- ▶ Communicate correct situation reports to decision-makers
- ▶ Evacuate people from an affected area
- ▶ Help and support affected individuals and their families with information and crisis support
- ▶ Help casualties with medical care
- ▶ Assess the need for further support from Sweden

Examples of cooperation and coordination

The new influenza (A)H1N1

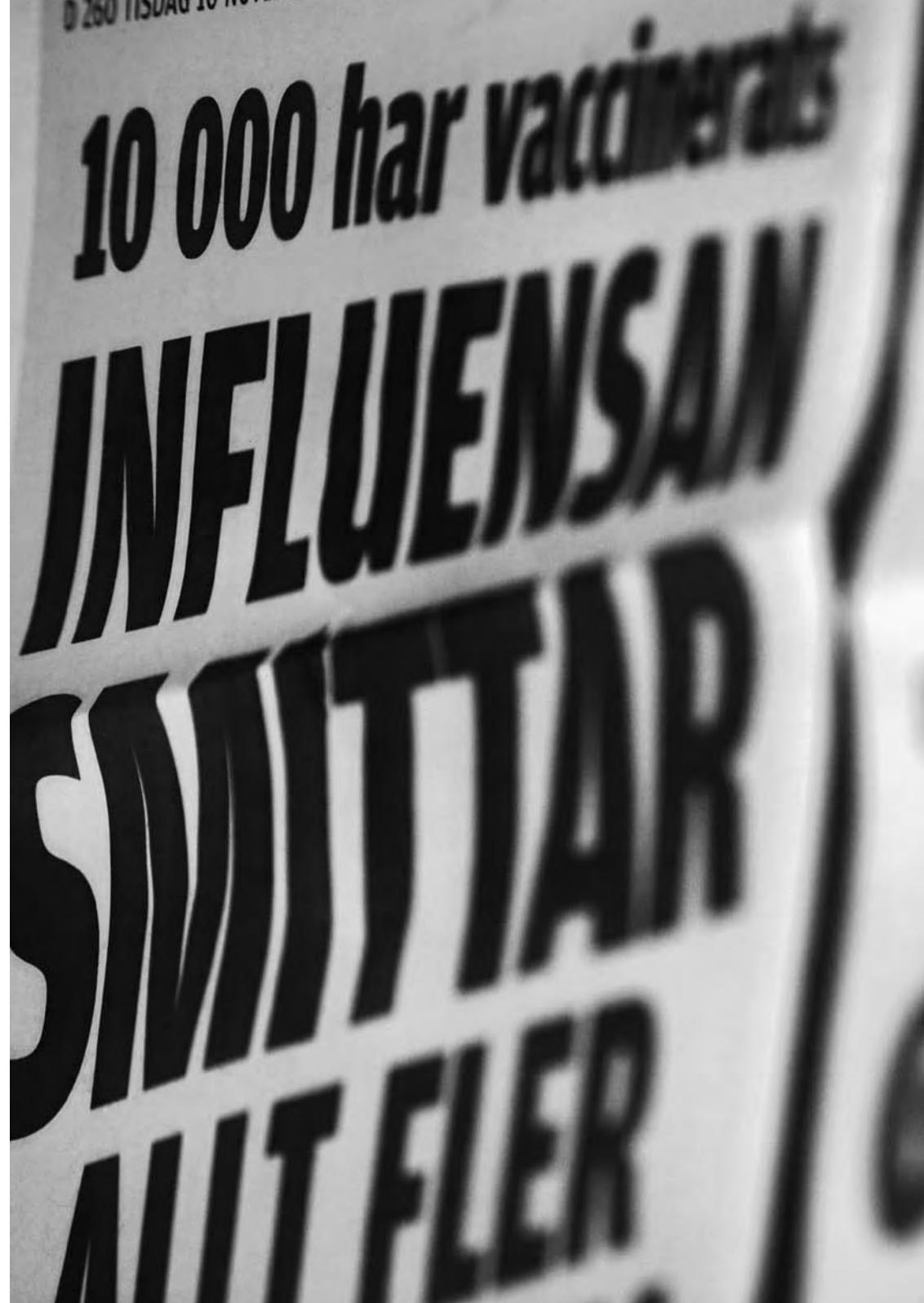
In collaboration with the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare and others, the MSB supported the measures and information of the Swedish authorities. The MSB coordinated and managed the authorities' joint information services, which provided coordinated answers to questions from the public.

Snowstorms and spring floods

During the winter snowstorms at the beginning of 2010 and the subsequent spring flood the MSB arranged telephone conferences between the relevant national and regional authorities to facilitate cooperation between them. In connection with the spring flood the MSB strengthened some vulnerable municipalities temporarily with extra equipment.

Ash cloud from the volcanic eruption in Iceland

During the early spring of 2010 a cloud of volcanic ash from Iceland drifted across Europe. The European authorities stopped air traffic and many people became concerned for their health. The MSB was tasked to produce a coordinated report of the events, support other authorities' cooperation, and to study both the short and long-term consequences. The extent of the problem meant that the MSB's information coordination became vital for the rapid dissemination of coordinated information to the public.



Global operations

The MSB contributes to reducing risks and vulnerabilities in Sweden, but also globally by participating in international aid work. We contribute with resources to strengthen the capacities of affected countries to prevent, anticipate, and deal with difficult events. These resources can also be used during a national emergency. Normally the MSB runs 50–60 international operations simultaneously – primarily in Africa, Asia and Europe. There is a demand for our resources from, among others, the EU, UN, and the Red Cross.

We have the competence and resources to provide rapid assistance to those affected and to support the coordination of international assistance. We can also contribute to early recovery activities and assist with development of disaster preparedness.

Reducing the risk of future disasters

The MSB works with disaster risk reduction. We offer support for the sustainable long-term development of infrastructure and for the country's capacity to prevent, anticipate, and deal with future disasters. The MSB offers methodologies and tools for:

- ▶ Identifying and evaluating risks, assessing development needs and developing contingency plans for future disaster situations.
- ▶ Strengthening recovery of infrastructure so that vital societal services can be protected.
- ▶ Training personnel in search and rescue, coordination, logistics, information management, and recovery.
- ▶ The development of a country's emergency management and rescue services.

Humanitarian operations

Our personnel have many years' experience of cooperating with and supporting other organisations in disaster and conflict situations. Primarily we collaborate with UN agencies, for example, the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Children's Fund (Unicef) and the UN's Development Programme (UNDP). Among other tasks we work with:

Search and rescue: A self-sufficient search and rescue team (Swedish International Fast Response Team) can be on scene within ten hours of a request for assistance.

Base camps: A holistic concept providing accommodation, offices, communications, and kitchen facilities.

Medical care: Flexible medical care solutions for UN and EU personnel, so as not to put a further strain on the affected country's own medical care services.

Water, sanitation and hygiene: Water purification, latrines, and waste management.

Environment: Early assessments of environmental impact in connection with natural disasters.

Accommodation and provisions: Tent camps and the distribution of provisions.

Transport and logistics: Lorry convoys, training of mechanics and drivers.



Humanitarian mine action

Every year 20,000 people are killed globally by land mines and ordnance that hasn't exploded. The MSB runs operations as part of the international work of Mine Action. We support the UN's Mine Action Service (UNMAS); we are part of their operational resources and are ready to respond after 72 hours.

The MSB works with ensuring that areas containing unexploded ordnance are made safe for people to live and work in. We train other organisations, and also carry out our own mine and ordnance clearing operations. The MSB employs experts on information management and safety and security issues.

Early recovery

For affected countries to be able to function properly again as soon as possible after a disaster the MSB offers support for early recovery, for example, disaster waste management, water supply, facilities for sanitation and hygiene, the construction of bridges as well as support to coordination of early recovery activities.

Support for civil conflict management

The MSB supports missions for civil conflict management, primarily within the framework of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy. The MSB contributes with experts and material support in the fields of logistics, IT, administration, base camps, and technology.





Examples of operations

Haiti

- ▶ Experts and equipment to assess the most acute assistance needs.
- ▶ Support for coordination of the work of international aid organisations.
- ▶ Experts to assess long-term recovery needs.

Mozambique

- ▶ Support for the strengthening, development and training of the country's own resources and capacities to allow for better prevention, anticipation and management of future emergencies, crises and disasters.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

- ▶ Field offices for UN personnel that provide good prospects for working and coordinating their activities in an area with a great need for humanitarian help.
- ▶ Transportation support for UN organisations to ensure the delivery of provisions.

Iraq

- ▶ An office for UN personnel in central Baghdad.

High quality field staff are our most important resource

The MSB currently has about 2,000 individuals registered on its field staff roster. All have been prepared and trained for their tasks, and are ready to be deployed anywhere in the world at short notice.

Our ambition is to have an even balance between men and women on our teams. We also aim for great diversity from the perspective of, for example, ethnic background, religious belief, competence, language skills, and experience. In that way we have the greatest chance of reaching out to entire populations and conducting effective operations in the areas we arrive in.

For our field staff roster we look for people that feel a strong commitment towards their fellow man. When we need personnel we place announcements on our web site.

Do you want to know more?

www.msb.se/en





Publ.nr MSB 0180-10

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