

Albania Earthquake

A humanitarian's view on Civil Protection in action

Juergen Hoegl



AUSTRIAN RED CROSS

Overview

- Situation
- RC and UCPM response
- Coordination and shared key issue
- CP in action – bottom line
- Food for thought



AUSTRIAN RED CROSS

Situation summary

- EQ 6,4M, 20km; 26Nov, 03.54 local (02.54 UTC)
- affected regions: Durrës, Kruje, Tiranë and Lezhë
- 200,000+ people affected; 51 deaths, 913 injured
- widespread damage to structures in affected areas, critical infrastructure widely intact:
 - 11,500 housing units fully destroyed / to be demolished
 - 83,700 housing units partially damaged / requiring repair (PDNA, February 2020)



AUSTRIAN RED CROSS

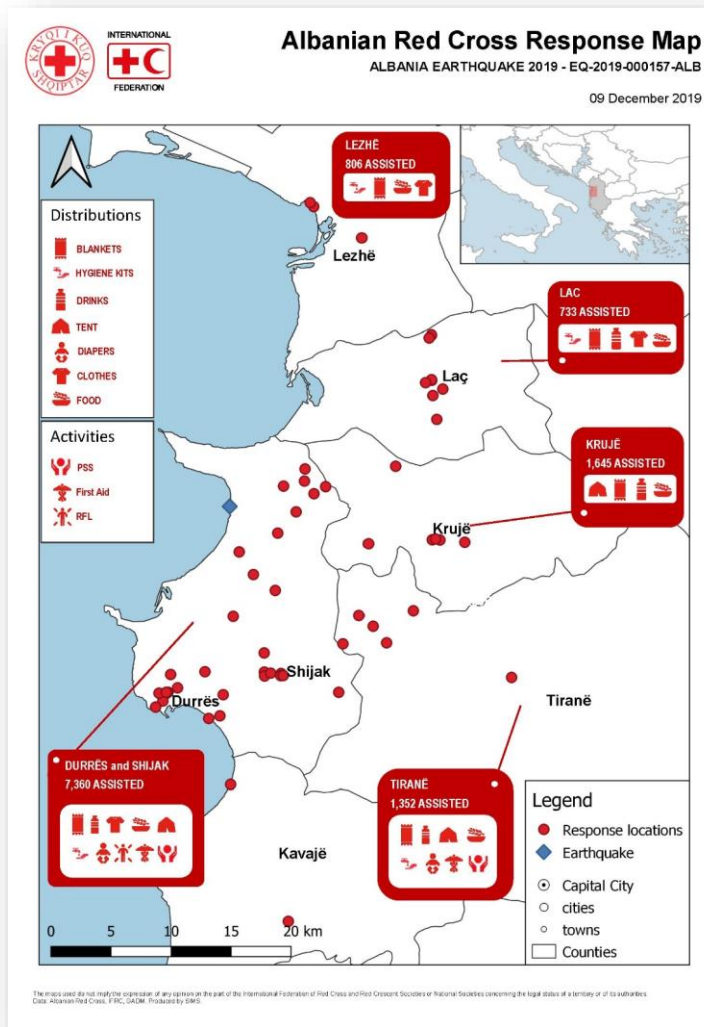
Situation summary

- GoA declaring state of emergency on 27 November (initial 1 month), extended until 31 March 2020.
- Total Damages and Losses (PDNA): 985.1 million EUR
- Key challenges: changes in shelter situation, winterisation, incomprehensive assessment information

Displacement figures (people living in temporary accommodation)	
14 December	12,181 (thereof 7,383 in tents)
07 January	26,000 displaced (10k in tents)
25 January	32,000 displaced (10k in tents)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No reliable figures (people living in host families, renting temporary accommodation or other shelter solutions).• Tent camps and collective shelters closed on 17 December.	

Red Cross Action

- 350 national volunteers and staff, 8 international experts
- Targeting 60k affected persons
- IFRC Emergency Appeal: 5m CHF, plus bilateral contributions
- Initial focus:
 - First Aid, Food, Non-food items, Psychosocial support
- Longer run
 - multipurpose cash assistance, Psychosocial support, community-based Disaster Risk Reduction






AUSTRIAN RED CROSS

UCPM action

UCPM activated on 26 November:

- USAR teams from Greece, Italy and Romania (operation closing on 29 November)
- EUCP Team, including two UNDAC members (28 November - 20 December), one rotation
- GoA accepted UCPM-coordinated in-kind assistance from 10 UCPM member states.
Bilateral assistance from another 9 member states.

UNDAC has extended its presence until January 2020.

EU RESPONSE	
	€ 300,000 in immediate emergency funding.
	ECHO Office: 1 Regional Information Officer.
	EUCP Team A (28/11-05/12), 6 members (NL, SE, FR, UK, DE)
	EUCP Team B (04/12-20/12), 10 members (SE, DE, FI, SI, IT, EL)
	Each EUCP Team is accompanied by 2 liaison officers (DG ECHO) and 2 UNDAC members.
European Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCPM): Medium Urban Search And Rescue (MUSAR), IT, European Civil Protection Pool (ECPP); MUSAR (RO, ECPP); MUSAR (EL); Structural Assessment Capacity (IT, ECPP); Structural Assessment Capacity (EL), Structural Assessment Capacity (HR).	
In kind assistance: Shelter material (Family tent, (bunk) beds, mattresses, blankets, sleeping bags), water pumps, power generators, first aid kits and hygiene kits.	
	
In addition Croatia, France, Israel, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey have deployed teams and/or in kind assistance on bilateral basis.	



AUSTRIAN RED CROSS

Coordination

- Albanian authorities in charge
- Crisis response led by Minister of Agriculture, several Deputy Ministers in charge of specific areas of response (e.g. Deputy Minister of Justice in charge of volunteer / NGO / humanitarian actor coordination)
- Key international actors:
joint UCPM/UNDAC team, USAR, damage assessment teams; Swiss Development Cooperation/Swiss Humanitarian Aid, USAID; UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO; Caritas Europe, Save the Children, World Vision International; IFRC.



AUSTRIAN RED CROSS

Shared key issue

- limited local expertise - national actors widely unaware of (international) coordination mechanisms
- local coordination structures "ad-hocish" - limited local engagement in international coordination efforts
- Local CP – marginal role.
key national actors: military and ad-hoc structure led by „politicians–turning-operational“ (bright, yet very limited subject-matter expertise)
- very limited effect of 20+ years of investment in building local capacities, response mechanisms and structures



AUSTRIAN RED CROSS

„CP in action“ – bottom line

- National CP system with a lot of room for improvement.
- Positive: Request for Assistance launched on day 1.
- limited effectiveness for the whole of the international response community as regards coordination with local structures
- USAR operation effective – regional capacities operational timely
- „neighbourhood disaster“, high European interest
- Excellent UCPM footprint, joint approach with UNDAC adding value



AUSTRIAN RED CROSS

Food for thought – the humanitarian's view

- Excellent formal and informal cooperation with UCPM:
 - carried by the will to coordinate and cooperate
 - massively supported by personal knowledge of key counterparts (IFRC – UCPM/UNDAC) – trusted relationship
 - leadership actors aware of each other systems, procedures, and limitations – „common language“
 - Cluster approach as a common base (despite issues to implement with local systems)



AUSTRIAN RED CROSS

Food for thought

- Knowledge of each others systems is essential
 - anchor key approaches, principles, rules and limitations in learning and development on all sides (UPCM, UN, INGOs, RCRC, national systems) – systems are complementary!
 - learn with and from each other – joint courses, trainings and exercises.
 - „changing hats“ can benefit individuals and systems.



AUSTRIAN RED CROSS

Food for thought

- There is no „one solution“ - we have to adapt and be flexible according to the reality on the ground.
 - refrain from transferring your system's approaches to all actors – common issue for newcomers
 - systems benefit from senior expertise on leadership level – problem-solving mindset, know-how to manoeuvre systems, aiming for pragmatic solutions, and appetite to taking decisions widely result from operational experience.
 - working „according to the book“ gives you the common thread, yet regularly not the silver bullet!



AUSTRIAN RED CROSS

Food for thought

- Short-term deployments / high turnover of staff poses the risk of lacking operational continuity, the need to re-establishing networks, and is limiting efficiency.
 - extend the deployment duration (1 month plus)
 - balance senior and junior expertise
 - Systematically include trainee / shadow deployments



AUSTRIAN RED CROSS