

The Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC)

The Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) is NATO's principal mechanism to respond to civil emergencies, such as natural and man-made disasters. It can also be activated during collective defence situations in the scope of Article 5.

Operational 24/7, the EADRCC is ready to coordinate assistance during emergencies, including by leveraging military assets in support of the civilian response. To deliver fast and coherent help on behalf of the Alliance, the EADRCC works closely with NATO experts, the NATO military authorities and first responders, including the NATO Allies and partners, United Nations organisations, the European Union and the Red Cross family. Finally, the EADRCC organises consequence management exercises to help NATO Allies and partners increase their own disaster management capacities and improve coordination.

Requests for assistance through the EADRCC have increased substantially in recent years. The Centre has been a key part of NATO's response to emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2023 earthquake in Türkiye and Russia's war against Ukraine.

NATO's solidarity tool in emergencies

In case of a natural or man-made disaster, the EADRCC can be activated to coordinate international assistance to the affected country. Acting as a clearing house mechanism, the Centre receives requests for help from the affected country, distributes them to NATO Allies and partners, and coordinates the response where necessary. The Centre monitors the situation in the affected area, the assistance accepted by the affected country, delivery dates and assistance still required, and shares regular situation reports with Allies and partners. It also tracks the assistance offered through other international mechanisms or bilaterally. In this way, the EADRCC contributes to making sure that support is timely and well-coordinated.

Through the Clearing House Mechanism, EADRCC has successfully contributed to the international response in more than 100 emergencies around the globe.

Coordination and cooperation

Another core task for the EADRCC is cooperation and dialogue with other authorities and organisations that are involved in disaster response and preparedness. This exchange ensures that NATO's efforts in an emergency can complement those of other first responders. It also helps to avoid overlaps and duplication.

The list of interlocutors includes the NATO military authorities, the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), the European Union's Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), etc.

Training and exercises

The EADRCC organises regular training and exercises to help Allies and partners improve their emergency preparedness and response capabilities, and build up their resilience. Exercises enable stakeholders to test and validate their procedures and plans, identify gaps and stimulate improvements. They are also essential to improve interoperability among international responders. The most recent EADRCC exercise took place in North Macedonia and saw participation from 30 countries and more than 15 international organisations.

The EADRCC in action

Requests for support through the EADRCC have increased throughout the years - from two in 1998 when the centre was set up, to 32 in 2022.

The Centre was NATO's focal point for response to the **COVID-19 pandemic**. With EADRCC coordination, NATO Allies and partners provided commercial and military airlift, set up field hospitals, shared medical expertise, and donated life-saving assistance to cope with the pandemic. A special Pandemic Response Trust Fund, managed by the EADRCC, has enabled this work. More than 20 Allies and partners have benefitted from NATO's support to pandemic response.

The EADRCC has also helped deliver essential **assistance to Ukraine**, to help cope with Russia's aggression. The centre has facilitated the delivery of humanitarian aid to Ukraine, including ambulances, mobile X-ray machines and ventilators, and capacity-building for Ukraine's crisis management capabilities, for example paramedic training. The EADRCC has also worked with the EU's Emergency Response Coordination Centre to set up medical evacuation operations from Ukraine.

Following the **earthquake that hit Türkiye** in early 2023, the EADRCC helped to deliver more than 1000 temporary housing containers and tents, blankets and pieces of medical equipment to the worst-affected zones.

The centre also facilitated the creation of an air bridge to the affected areas, which ensured the quick delivery of assistance.

In August 2023, **Slovenia** asked for EADRCC assistance to cope with devastating floods. Allies stepped up with immediate offers of support, including helicopters, modular bridges, excavators and engineering expertise. Through the EADRCC, Spain provided one CH-47a heavy-lift helicopter, with crew and supporting staff.

Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC)
Tel: +32 2707 5108 / +32 2707 5109 (NATO HQ SITCEN)
nato.eadrcc@hq.nato.int