

Memorandum of Understanding

between

The Swedish National Rescue Services Board

and

The Office of the United Nations High
Commissioner for Refugees

Whereas the Government of Sweden fully supports the efforts of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (hereinafter referred to as "UNHCR") to enhance its capacity to respond to emergencies as outlined in Document EC/SC.2/1991/CRP.14 dated 15 September 1991, presented to the forty-second session of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme;

Whereas the Government of Sweden has on 19 December 1991, assigned the Räddnings Verket (Swedish National Rescue Services Board), hereinafter referred to as the "Board", to establish standby arrangements for technical and logistical support for the UNHCR Emergency Response Teams, and has authorised the Board to enter into agreement with UNHCR on the specifics of this and related co-operation;

It is agreed as follows:

Article I

1. The Board shall provide the necessary technical and logistical support to enable the UNHCR Emergency Response Teams to become immediately operational and self-sufficient (for a period of at least four weeks) as soon as they arrive at the location of an emergency operation.
2. In order to meet the above undertaking, the Board shall draw upon its standby capacity for rescue operations abroad for the rapid mobilisation and deployment of the Board's support personnel and equipment to assist the UNHCR Emergency Response Teams. With the exception of national disasters, the Board would give this task priority over any similar requests/requirements from other organizations.
3. The Board's personnel and equipment shall be prepared for deployment from a Swedish airport as soon as possible in order to be deployed to an emergency site at the same time as the UNHCR Emergency Response Teams.
4. The Board's support for the UNHCR Emergency Response Teams shall include the following:
 - (a) living facilities including suitable shelter, essential utilities (such as water, electricity, sanitation), food and cooking facilities, storage;
 - (b) office facilities including office space, equipment, electricity and personnel;

- (c) communications-facilities including the equipment and personnel to operate it and to train UNHCR staff;
 - (d) transport facilities including vehicles, fuel spare parts, and personnel to operate and maintain vehicles;
 - (e) medical facilities including basic kits, and trained personnel.
5. The Board shall also assist UNHCR to maintain a fleet of ten vehicles, to be purchased by UNHCR and delivered to the Board. The conditions of this arrangement (including ownership, receipt, insurance, dispatch, customs arrangement etc.) will be included in a specific agreement between the Board and UNHCR.
6. Personal mobilisation kits for UNHCR staff will normally be stocked at UNHCR Geneva. The Board, however, may be requested by UNHCR to assemble, stock and manage these kits, if deemed necessary by UNHCR. The related costs would be borne by UNHCR.

Article 2

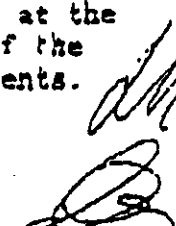
1. UNHCR shall keep the Board informed of emergency preparedness and of its planned response in accordance with the following:
- type of emergency operation concerned;
 - location and expected duration of the operation;
 - size of the UNHCR team;
 - requested number of Board support personnel;
 - listing by priority, of the tasks to be performed by the Board;
 - technical specifications of special equipment as required.
2. The UNHCR Emergency Preparedness and Response Section (EPRS) will be the focal point for on-going contact between the Board and UNHCR. Thus any substantive communication or request for information from the Board to UNHCR should be directed to the Emergency Preparedness and Response Section.

Article 3

1. All existing standby capacities of the Board for international rescue operations, which can be used for the agreed arrangements relating to the personnel and material support for the UNHCR Emergency Response Teams and the supply of relief items, shall be made available by the Board to UNHCR at no cost.
2. If UNHCR requests additional standby capacity beyond what the Board has available for rescue operations abroad, the agreed cost incurred shall be borne by UNHCR.

3. At the time of deployment, which shall be decided by UNHCR, the agreed cost for the actual quantity of relief items (including transport and replenishment of stocks) and the personnel, material support, shall be borne by UNHCR. The procedures for reimbursement to the Board by UNHCR shall be mutually agreed and detailed in an exchange of letters.

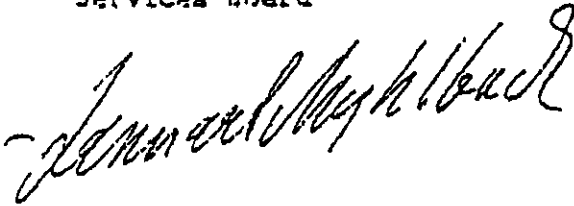
Article 4

1. The support personnel shall be employed by the Board and compensated in accordance with the Board's personnel regulations. UNHCR shall provide them with a special contract without remuneration and a UN identity card stipulating their UNHCR status.
 2. This agreement being made in a spirit of partnership, the Board's support personnel will work as part of a UNHCR team, and will be accorded the same treatment as regular UNHCR staff. Accordingly, they will work under the responsibility, and according to the instructions, of the respective UNHCR official charged with the implementation of the emergency operation.
 3. UNHCR shall assist the Board in obtaining visas and any relevant travel documents, if requested by the Board, from the relevant local authorities.
 4. UNHCR shall endeavour, in agreement with relevant national and local authorities, to ensure that the same protection and physical security measures are in place for support personnel as for UNHCR regular staff.
 5. UNHCR shall not be liable to indemnify any third party in respect of any claim, debt, damage or demand arising out of the implementation of this agreement which may be made against the Board or any staff provided under this agreement.
 6. UNHCR will not accept liability for compensation for the death, disability or other hazards which may be suffered by employees of the Board as a result of their participation in activities or work which is the subject matter of this agreement.
 7. The Board shall ensure that all support personnel are properly covered by, inter alia, life, medical and accident insurance, including insurance for any service-incurred injuries or sickness.
 8. The Board and UNHCR shall, on a regular basis, exchange information on the progress of emergency operations in which the Board takes part.
 9. A joint staff evaluation shall be carried out by the Board and UNHCR at the end of each operation. This will include a systematic de-briefing of the support personnel by the Board and UNHCR at the end of their assignments.
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Article 5

1. The parties hereto agree that details and procedures governing the implementation of this arrangement shall be finalised by way of an exchange of letters as soon as possible.
2. This agreement shall remain in force for a period of two years and may be extended upon mutual agreement following a joint review and evaluation. The agreement may be terminated by either party by giving three months' written notice.

Lennart Wyhlback
Director-General
The Swedish National Rescue
Services Board



Stockholm, 19 December 1991

George Gordon-Lennox
The Regional Representative
for the Nordic Countries
Office of the United Nations
High Commissioner for Refugees



Stockholm, 19 December 1991

