

Emergency Response Unit (ERU)

ERUs are part of the International Federation's disaster response tools. They provide specific support or direct services when local facilities are either destroyed, overwhelmed by needs, or do not exist. Using a standardized modular system of equipment and pre-trained teams of National Society technical specialists, ERUs can be deployed within 48 hours.



Key data

- ERUs ready for deployment: **32**
- Deploying National Societies: **13**
- ERUs deployed between 2000-2002: **13**

Type of ERU

- Logistics
- Telecommunication
- Water treatment and supply line
- Water distribution and trucking
- Mass sanitation
- Specialized water
- Basic health care
- Referral hospital
- Relief (under development)

ERUs are one of the key disaster response and management tools of the International Federation.

There are a variety of ERUs ready for deployment within 48 to 72 hours. These can be used to provide services where local infrastructures are either severely damaged or overwhelmed by large influxes of people. They are designed to complement the disaster response capacity of National Societies in countries affected by disasters.

ERUs are designed to be fully self-supporting for the first month of a relief operation and can be deployed for up to four months. ERUs are developed and maintained by the deploying National Societies, who in turn make them available to the International Federation as part of its disaster response.

The deployment of an ERU is based on a needs assessment undertaken by a Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) or a Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT) and is coordinated by the disaster management and coordination division (DMC).

In between disasters, DMC continues to coordinate planning, support services and technical working groups. It also serves as the technical focal point for National Societies already participating or interested in developing ERU capacities.

Systematic monitoring and evaluation of standards and performance help DMC and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies further refine the ERU concept and practice in order to meet operational needs.

Updating technical specifications and standard operating procedures, as well as sharing knowledge and best practice with National Societies are amongst the key activities of DMC.

Today, 12 National Societies have 32 ERUs in the main emergency support and service sectors of logistics, telecommunications and information technology, water and sanitation, health and relief.