

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL DEFENCE ORGANIZATION

The International Civil Defence Organization (ICDO) is an inter-governmental organisation whose objective is to contribute to the development by States of structures ensuring the protection and assistance of populations and safeguarding property and the environment from natural or man made disasters.

Civil defense is also known as civil protection and encompasses the protection of persons and property against disasters. ICDO brings together national civil defense authorities, and helps protect human life through the organized planning, training, prevention, preparedness and response for all emergencies, including natural disasters and manmade accidents. It aims to help states develop structures that will enable them to ensure the protection and assistance of populations and to safeguard property and the environment in the face of natural or man made disasters.

The ICDO designs and implements training programs for civil defense personnel in all matters concerning population protection and assistance and the safeguard of property and the environment in case of disaster. These programmes are implemented in the ICDO regional training centres (Burkina Faso, Egypt, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Senegal and Tunisia), as well as in Switzerland.

The ICDO also promotes international cooperation in civil defense matters. In this field, the ICDO contributes to the design and implementation of means of cooperation between national civil defense structures, encourages and favors standardisation of civil defense matters and of the management of emergency situations through normative actions; and promotes a common culture in civil defense matters, for example through the dissemination of the fundamental principles of civil defense and of the rules of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) relating to civil defense. The ICDO is active in the area of disaster prevention, training civil defense personnel in the task of promoting and developing an awareness of disaster prevention and designing information materials on disaster prevention.

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