

# ESP-02 SPAIN "MEDIUM"

## BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN OUR HISTORY AS A TEAM

The most significant challenge was the rescue operation in Türkiye, where they faced extreme conditions, difficult terrain, and time pressure, with limited resources due to the large number of international teams deployed. Coordinating efforts with other teams and managing multiple simultaneous rescues were very complex.

The challenge was overcome through solid coordination, communication, and the implementation of clear protocols for the use of limited resources. Additionally, teamwork, the accumulated experience of team members, and support from the K9 handlers were key in successfully carrying out rescues in critical timeframes.

## GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT AS A TEAM

The most significant achievement was the life-saving rescue of Leyla, Elif, and Muslim, a mother and her children, who were trapped for four days under rubble. They endured a rescue operation lasting more than 24 hours. They were located using technical search methods with geophones, and intense cutting and drilling work was carried out to free them.

One of the practices we are particularly proud of is the use of new detection and search technologies, such as geophones, which have enabled us to locate people in places where conventional searches were ineffective. Furthermore, our methodology of integration and collaboration with teams from other nations within the INSARAG network has improved the efficiency of our deployments. It is also important to note that all teams operate under the same INSARAG standards, enabling effective interoperability and a quicker, more precise responses during disaster situations.

## THE GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT OF THE INSARAG NETWORK

The greatest achievement of INSARAG has been the creation of a globally coordinated response system to disasters. The community has been able to align and standardize procedures, allowing for faster and more efficient responses worldwide, with USAR teams working together to save lives. The fact that all teams work under the



Current Total Capacity: 48 personnel and 4 search dogs.  
Total number of international USAR deployments to date:  
Haiti (2010), Nepal (2015), Ecuador (2016),  
Mexico (2017), Türkiye (2023),  
Morocco (2023)

same standards and procedures makes the response smoother and more effective, regardless of the nationality of the team.

## THE FUTURE OF INSARAG

In 20 years, we see INSARAG as a more integrated network, with increasingly specialized teams using advanced technologies in disaster response. It will also be essential for the network to continue evolving in terms of training and capacity-building, ensuring the sustainability and efficiency of international deployments. The most important lesson is that coordination, constant training, and teamwork are essential in high-stress situations. The next generation must be prepared to work not only with their own team but also with international teams from different cultures to achieve efficient responses and save lives. Additionally, it is crucial to work under the same INSARAG standards to ensure smooth and effective operations worldwide.

More about UME: <https://ume.defensa.gob.es/usar/index.html>  
Haiti 2010: <https://www.defensa.gob.es/ume/Internacional/haiti.html>  
Nepal 2015: <https://www.defensa.gob.es/ume/Internacional/haiti.html>  
Ecuador 2016: <https://ume.defensa.gob.es/Internacional/ecuador.html>  
Mexico 2017: <https://ume.defensa.gob.es/Internacional/mexico.html>  
Türkiye 2023: <https://ume.defensa.gob.es/Internacional/Turquia.html>  
Morocco 2023: <https://ume.defensa.gob.es/Internacional/Marruecos.html>



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