



PLAN DE FORMACIÓN UNIDADES MILITARES DE EMERGENCIAS



New missions for the armed forces

In the last quarter of 2012, around 30 natural disasters affected 7.3 million people, nearly 50 percent of the total in 2012 and 90 percent more if compared to the total number in 2011. Over the past decade, the American continent alone suffered 922 natural disasters that took the lives of 247,000 people and affected more than 87 million.

In almost all of those catastrophes, the military forces made an outstanding contribution to the management of the emergencies. Therefore, it is fair to say that the armed forces of any nation are always an instrument of the State that is used in the circumstances and for the purposes that may be deemed necessary or appropriate at any given time.

The Armed Forces
are an instrument of the **State**
that operates in the scenarios where
natural disasters occur

The characteristics of military organizations, as well as their preparedness, are highly appreciated by the people responsible for emergency management. In addition to this, the means employed by the military, which are normally designed for use in difficult access scenarios, are the most suitable to operate in natural or technological disaster environments.

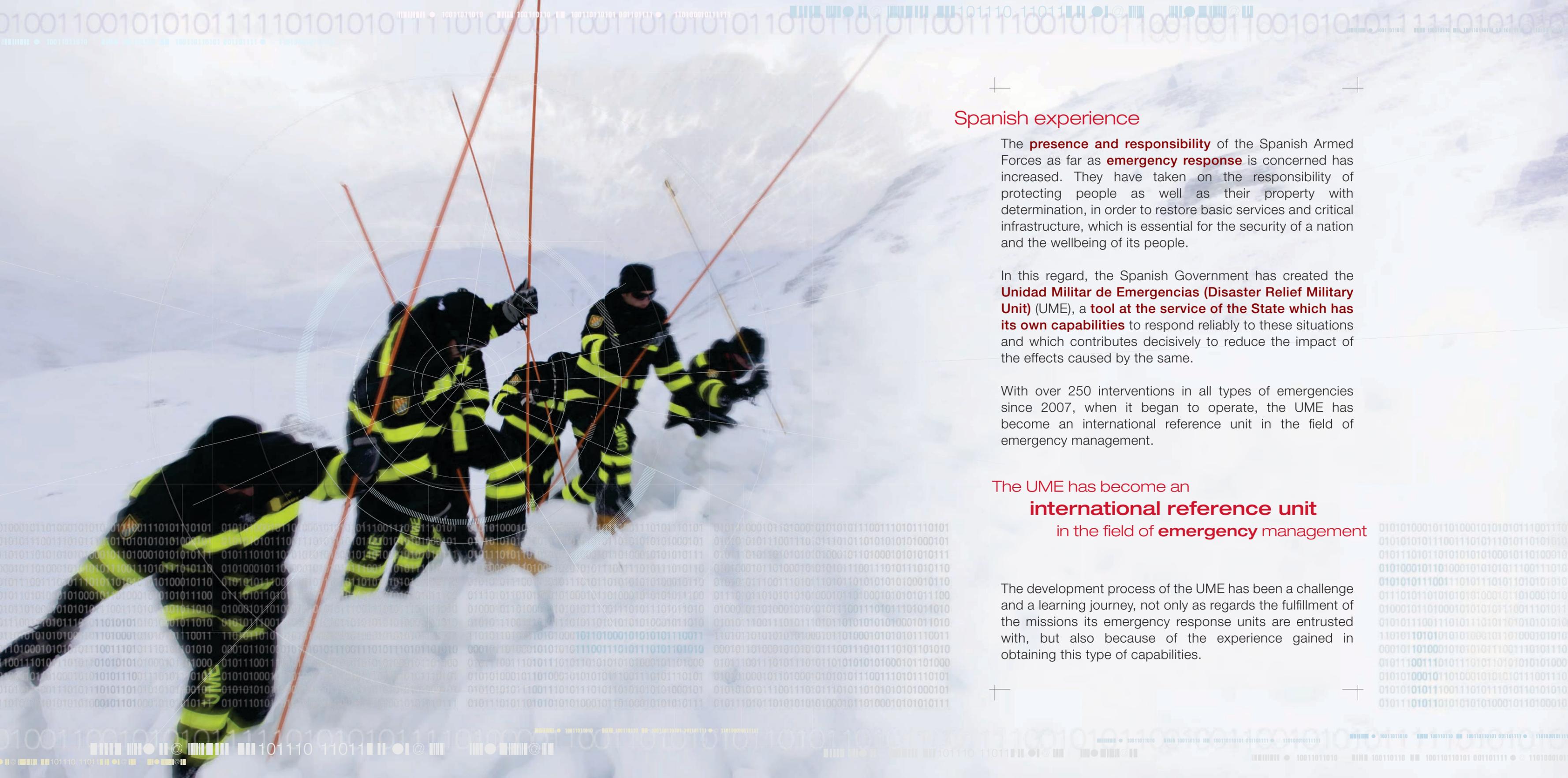
In this regard, military units are beginning to respond to emergencies in a “more specialized” way as regards the different scenarios that arise when their territories are hit by the brutal force of nature or by man-made accidents.



The results obtained so far are very positive. And, since these tasks are carried out in close contact with “citizens living an extreme situation”, they serve as an **instrument to increase the recognition by society of a new mission that has been entrusted to the Armed Forces.**

As part of the concept of “national security”, the mission that involves providing **support to civil authorities** has long been consolidated in the armed forces. Some nations have chosen to create disaster relief military units in order to be able to meet the needs of the same with the necessary expertise and professionalism. Thus, Spain, Canada, the United States, France, Japan, Mexico, Russia or Switzerland are just some of the nations that have so far perceived the need to assign specific duties which were mainly carried out by Civil Protection systems to the Armed Forces, thus strengthening the existing collaboration ties with civil organizations and authorities responsible for emergency management.

The **organization, preparedness, and the means of the military** are the most **suitable** to respond to technological **disasters.**



Spanish experience

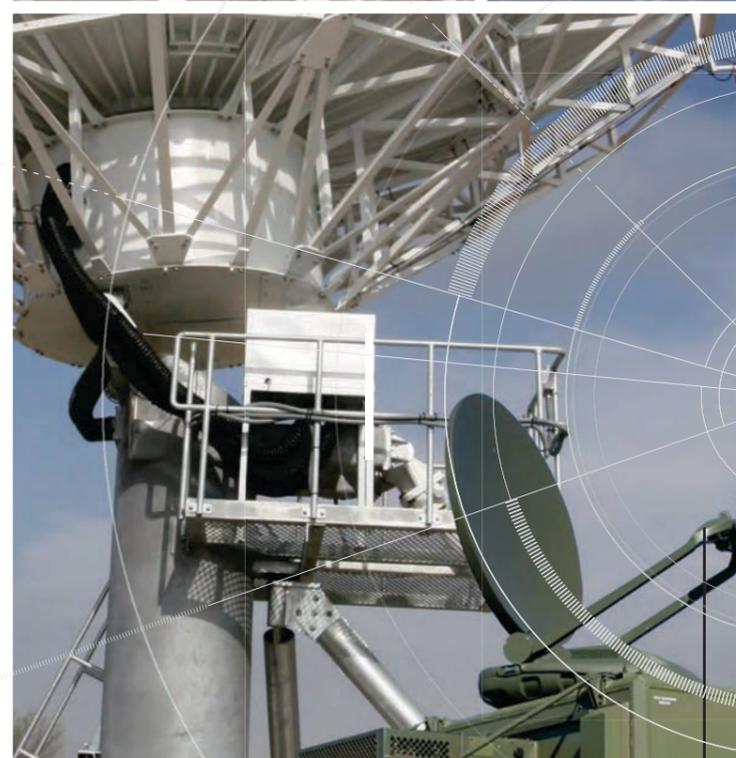
The **presence and responsibility** of the Spanish Armed Forces as far as **emergency response** is concerned has increased. They have taken on the responsibility of protecting people as well as their property with determination, in order to restore basic services and critical infrastructure, which is essential for the security of a nation and the wellbeing of its people.

In this regard, the Spanish Government has created the **Unidad Militar de Emergencias (Disaster Relief Military Unit)** (UME), a **tool at the service of the State which has its own capabilities** to respond reliably to these situations and which contributes decisively to reduce the impact of the effects caused by the same.

With over 250 interventions in all types of emergencies since 2007, when it began to operate, the UME has become an international reference unit in the field of emergency management.

The UME has become an **international reference unit** in the field of **emergency management**

The development process of the UME has been a challenge and a learning journey, not only as regards the fulfillment of the missions its emergency response units are entrusted with, but also because of the experience gained in obtaining this type of capabilities.



This experience has been shared with Spain's allied and friendly nations in the countless visits and conferences where its presence has been requested. As a recent example of this, it is worth mentioning that in 2013 an agreement was signed with Morocco and in 2009 another one was signed with France, both of them dealing with military collaboration in emergency situations.

The UME has, therefore, become an indispensable point of reference when it comes to creating similar units, thanks to established military procedures and a doctrine based on training and education.

This new concept has attracted the interest of many neighboring and friendly nations in the process of creation and development of the Spanish Disaster Relief Military Unit. And in some of them an analysis and study process has been initiated for the creation of such a unit as part of the support provided by their armed forces to civil authorities in the event of an emergency.

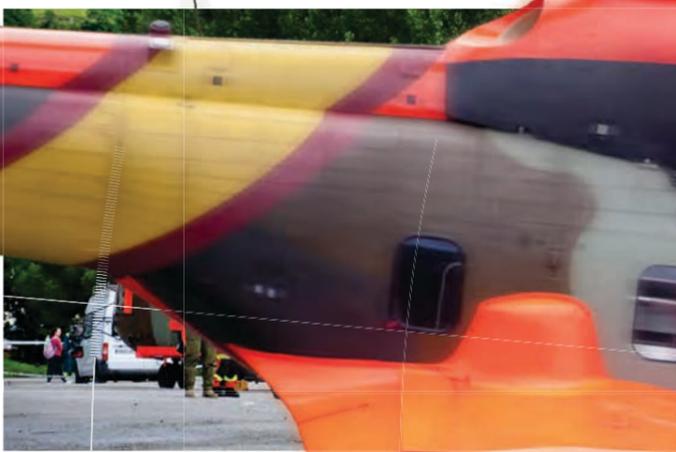
The main Spanish potential in this field is the possession of the necessary know-how both for the creation of specialized military units and for the management of their own disasters and emergencies.

What we offer to our friendly nations

We use our experience to help them create military units engaged in emergency management.

Backed by its performance in the various emergency situations it has had to face in diverse geographical and climatic conditions, as well as by the diversity of technical means it has used, the UME has become a point of reference as regards emergency management, both nationally and internationally.





The main Spanish **potential** for the creation of **specialized** military units and for the **management** of emergencies is the possession of the necessary **KNOW-HOW.**

Unlike a Batallón de Infantería (Infantry Battalion), which can exist in any army with broadly similar characteristics, military units engaged in disaster management are very rare.

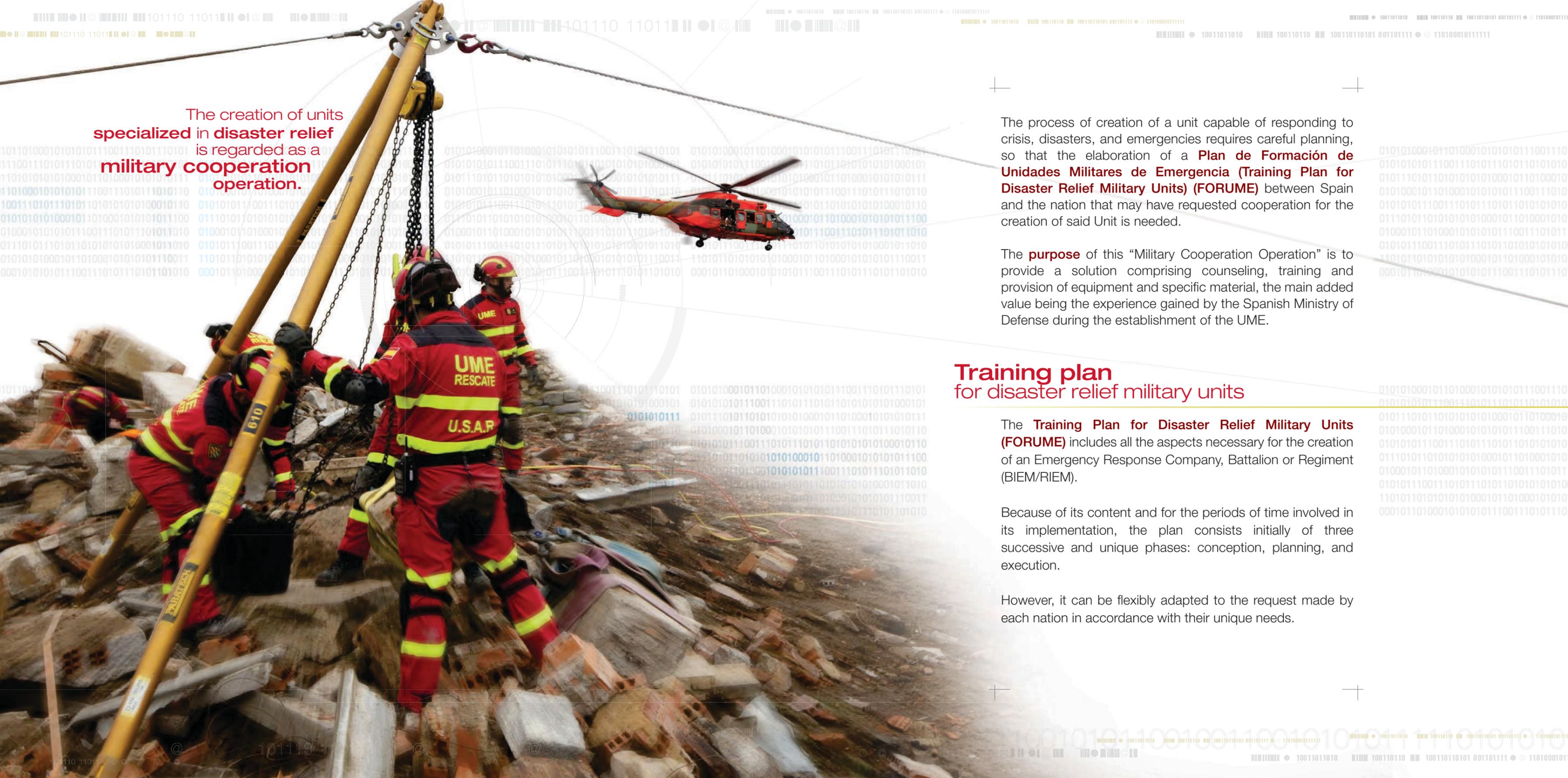
That is why Spain wants to share its experience and motivations with all the nations interested in creating a military unit similar to the Spanish Disaster Relief Military Unit, as well as the expertise of each and every man and woman that make it up, which is the main driving force of its success.

The nations interested in creating their own “UME” approach the project as a great challenge. However, there are only two major problems that have to be considered before starting to work on the project: first, either a new unit has to be created from scratch or, at best, the tasks assigned to an existing unit have to be changed; and, second, this new unit will have to take over tasks that were until that moment unknown or alien to most of the armed forces of their nations, which involves a great effort, as far as personnel and equipment is concerned, in order to undertake this new project.

The Spanish UME, given the complexity of the abovementioned situation, suggests, as the best solution, that the creation of units similar to the UME should be done in the framework of a...

Military cooperation operation

As it is an international military cooperation operation, the responsibility for the same lies with the Jefe de Estado Mayor de la Defensa (Chief of the Defense Staff) (JEMAD), supported by various technical and operational departments of the Spanish Ministry of Defense. This responsibility, at a government level, is embodied in the Secretario General de Política de Defensa (Secretary General for Defense Policy) (SEGENPOL), responsible for leading the first phase of the Project.



The creation of units specialized in disaster relief is regarded as a military cooperation operation.

The process of creation of a unit capable of responding to crisis, disasters, and emergencies requires careful planning, so that the elaboration of a **Plan de Formación de Unidades Militares de Emergencia (Training Plan for Disaster Relief Military Units) (FORUME)** between Spain and the nation that may have requested cooperation for the creation of said Unit is needed.

The **purpose** of this “Military Cooperation Operation” is to provide a solution comprising counseling, training and provision of equipment and specific material, the main added value being the experience gained by the Spanish Ministry of Defense during the establishment of the UME.

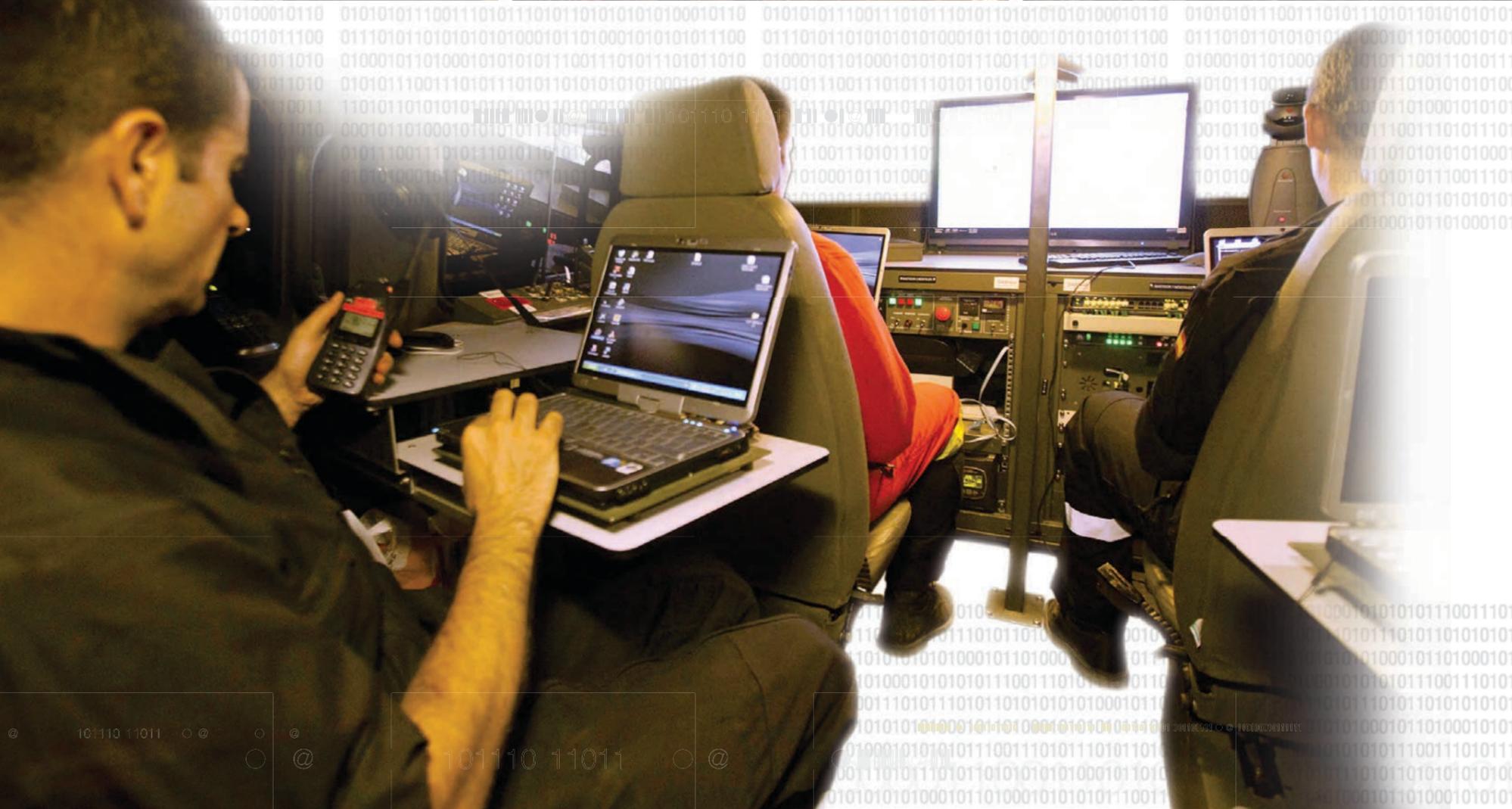
Training plan for disaster relief military units

The **Training Plan for Disaster Relief Military Units (FORUME)** includes all the aspects necessary for the creation of an Emergency Response Company, Battalion or Regiment (BIEM/RIEM).

Because of its content and for the periods of time involved in its implementation, the plan consists initially of three successive and unique phases: conception, planning, and execution.

However, it can be flexibly adapted to the request made by each nation in accordance with their unique needs.

The process of creation of units **specialized** in **emergency** management makes it necessary for the applicant **nation** and Spain to have a **training plan**.



First stage: Conception

In this stage a **Grupo de Trabajo Conjunto (Joint Working Group) (GCC)** will be set up in order to initiate all necessary contacts with the requesting country. This Group will be composed of two elements: one belonging to the nation that requested the support of Spain —**Equipo de Creación (Creation Team) (EC)**— and another, under the Jefe de Estado Mayor de la Defensa, called **Grupo de Trabajo Multidisciplinar Español (Spanish Multidisciplinary Working Group) (GTME)**.

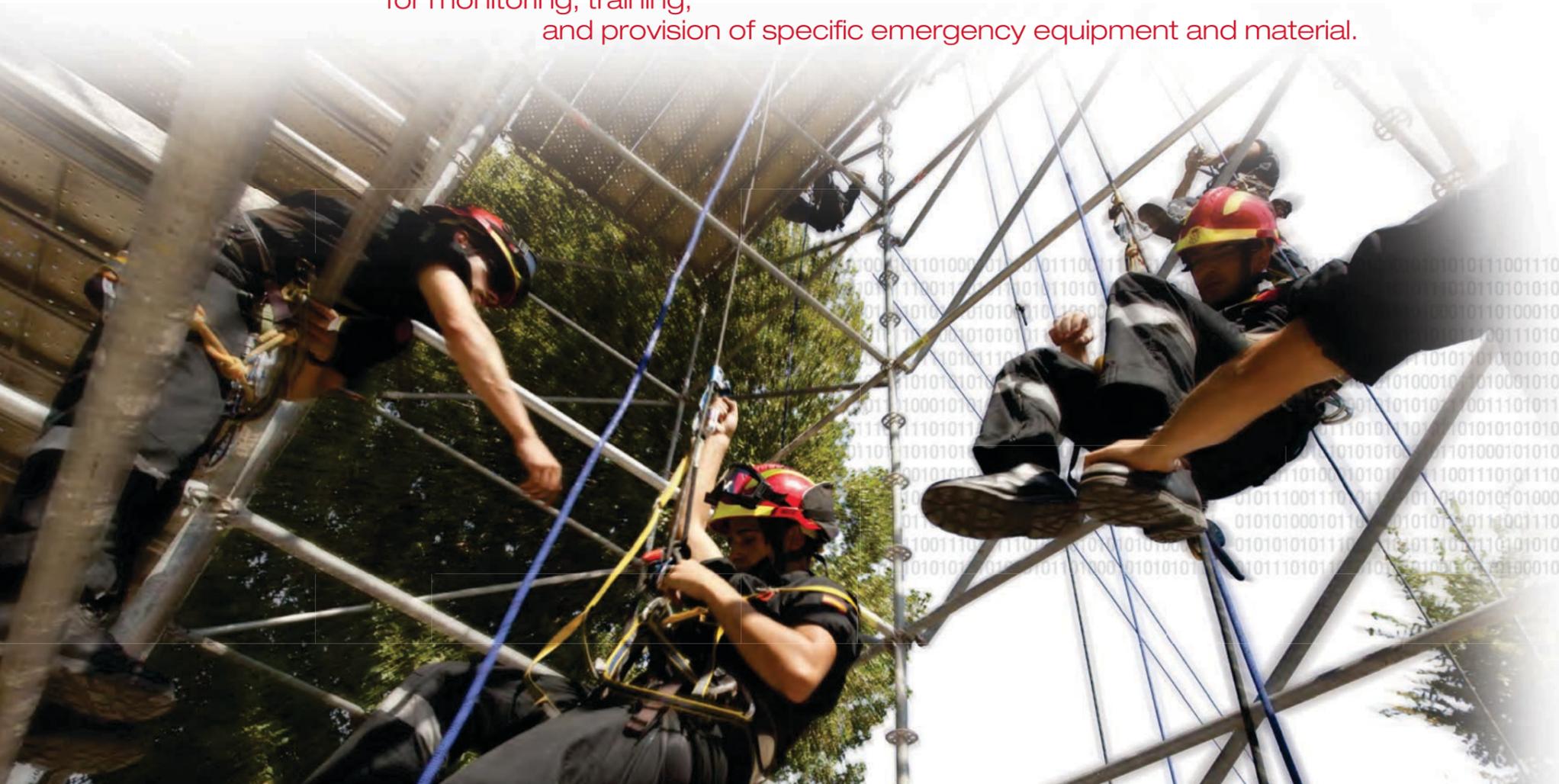
This group will be responsible for determining the specific needs for the creation of a new unit and the general terms of the FORUME plan, taking into consideration the generic and special capabilities developed by the Spanish Disaster Relief Military Unit.

In addition to this, during this stage the **learning** and **training** needs of the personnel of the new unit will be identified, as well as the **equipment** necessary for its creation. And in order to do so it is necessary to establish the **economic terms** that will ensure the cooperation and the implementation deadlines of the FORUME plan.

The signing of an **Agreement or a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the governments** of the applicant nation and Spain will seal the commitments entered into by both parties and said instrument will include the actions to be taken, putting thus an end to this stage.

By means of this agreement the **Spanish Ministry of Defense** will provide the applicant nation with a **guarantee** with respect to the activities agreed between the parties; and the participation of the suppliers of the UME within the sector and which may be involved in the Plan will also be guaranteed.

The **military cooperation operation** offers a **comprehensive solution** for monitoring, training, and provision of specific emergency equipment and material.



Intervention capabilities of the UME

Generic Capabilities	Special Capabilities
Emergency Command and Control	Underwater Rescue
Forest Fire-fighting	Rescue specialized in heavy snowfalls
Floods	Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)
Heavy Snowfalls and other weather events	Interventions in Confined Spaces Contaminated Environment
Earthquakes and Landslides	Bridges
Tecnological (NBCR) and Environmental Risks	Cave Rescue Support
Support for Victims	
Emergency Support	

Second stage: Planning

This stage, of varying duration, contains the details corresponding to the actions that may be deemed relevant in order to meet the needs expressed by the applicant nation.

Thus, the GTME will prepare all the necessary documents, which will take the form of the **Operation Plan**, drawn up as an **addendum or annex to the Agreement between the Governments or to the MoU**. This plan will develop the concept of Disaster Relief Military Unit of the applicant nation, as a fundamental doctrinal element for its creation, and will include the phases devoted to the training of personnel and units.

Once the applicant nation has given its agreement to the Operation Plan, it will take effect with the **signature of acceptance**.





Uniforme de trabajo
 Boina identificativa Unidad
 Uniforme con tejido antidesgarro
 Bandas reflectantes de alta visibilidad
 Bota con membrana tejido gore-tex



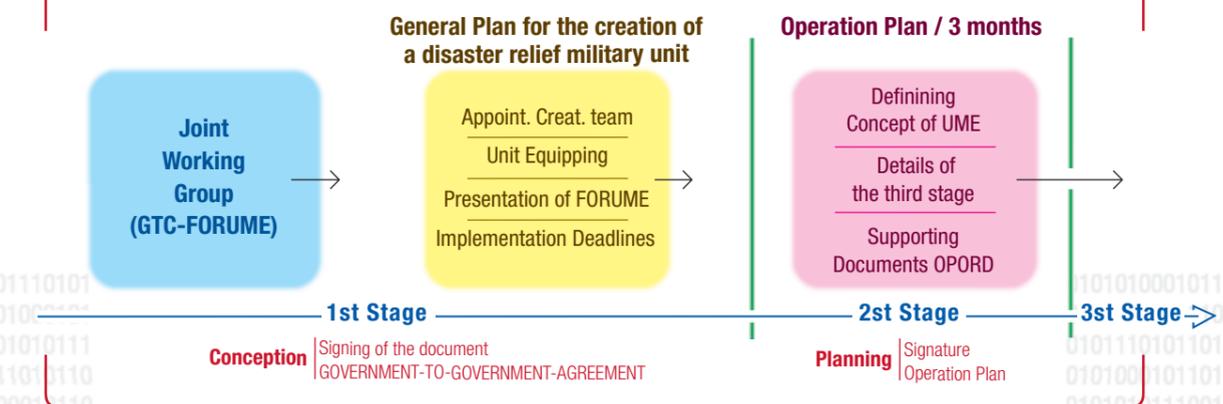
Rescate urbano
 Casco de protección con linterna halógena
 Coderas y rodilleras
 Refuerzos en mono ignífugo
 Bandas reflectantes de alta visibilidad
 Calzado especial con puntera de acero



Contra incendios
 Casco de protección con linterna halógena y protección anticalórica
 Bolsa de hidratación
 Equipo de supervivencia
 Bandas reflectantes de alta visibilidad sobre mono ignífugo
 Calzado especial ignífugo

Riesgos tecnológicos
 Casco de protección con protección visual
 Medidor
 Máscara protección agentes tóxicos
 Bandas reflectantes de alta visibilidad sobre mono especial
 Calzado especial contra agentes corrosivos

Military Cooperation Operation for the training of disaster relief military units (FORUME) (1st y 2nd stage)



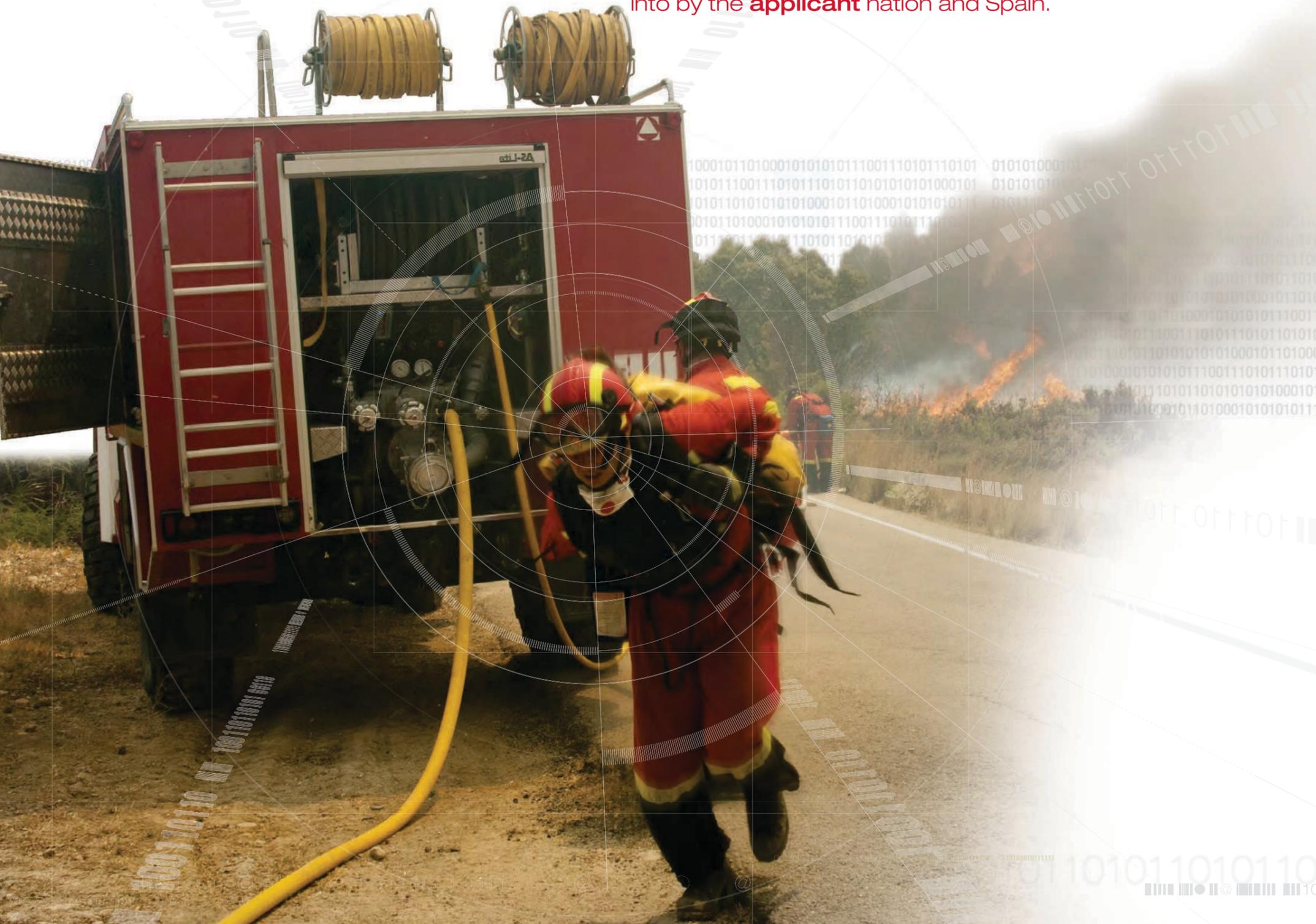
Third stage: Execution

In this stage, of an equally variable duration, all the activities aimed at the training of personnel and units, and at the provision of equipment will be developed.

As for the **training activities**, they will take place in Spain, during the time that may be determined from time to time, and they will serve a dual purpose. They are aimed firstly at providing the personnel with the necessary individual knowledge for the fulfillment of the duties associated with their tactical position; and, secondly, at enabling certain personnel (experts and commanding officers) to acquire specialized knowledge that will allow them to achieve the necessary capabilities for the management of disaster relief operations. This phase includes the training of the future “trainers” the applicant nation may need.

Based on the experience of the UME, and depending on the knowledge needed for the management of the disaster, three levels have been established in order to meet the training needs of the personnel.

The **Government-to-Government Agreement or the MOU** includes the **commitments** entered into by the **applicant** nation and Spain.



Level I is aimed at personnel that does not need to have specific training in emergency management, since they will not be directly involved in disaster relief operations. So, this level is intended for support personnel, mainly. **Level II** is aimed at personnel that would have to intervene in case of emergency, and as part of this level they will receive specific training in emergency response. Finally, part of the personnel having completed Level II will need additional specialized training, which they will receive as part of the **level III**.

The estimated initial number of people with training level II needed in a unit similar to an Emergency Response Battalion would range between 250 and 300 soldiers, and between 60 and 80 of them would achieve the Level III. However, this will be adapted to the specific needs of each nation.

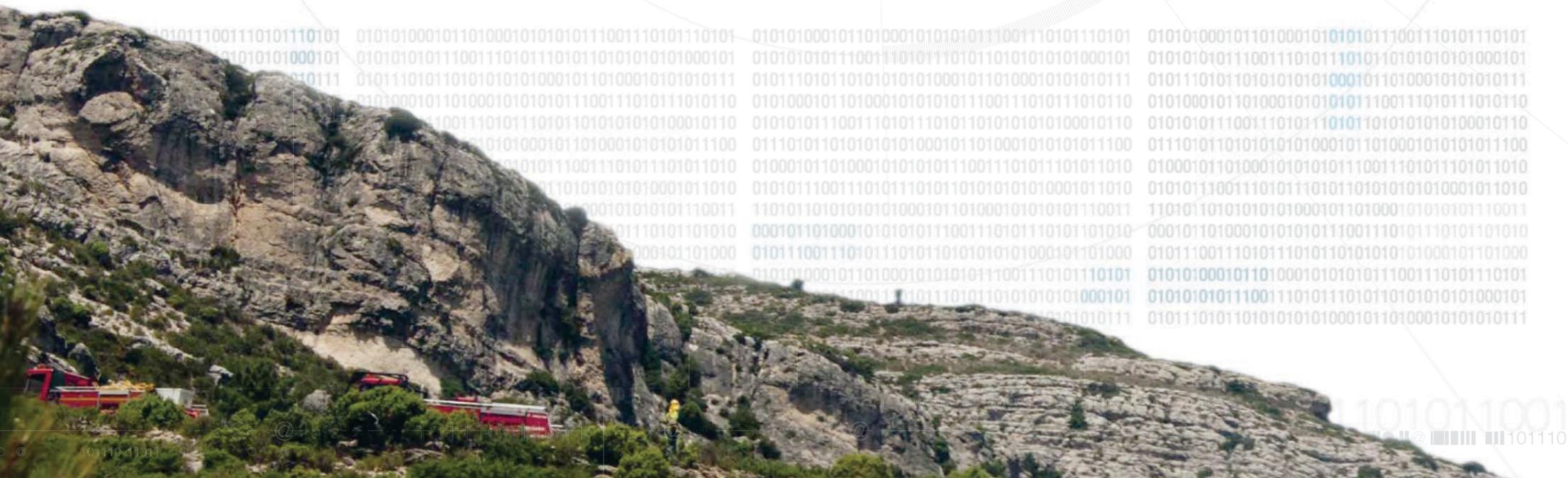
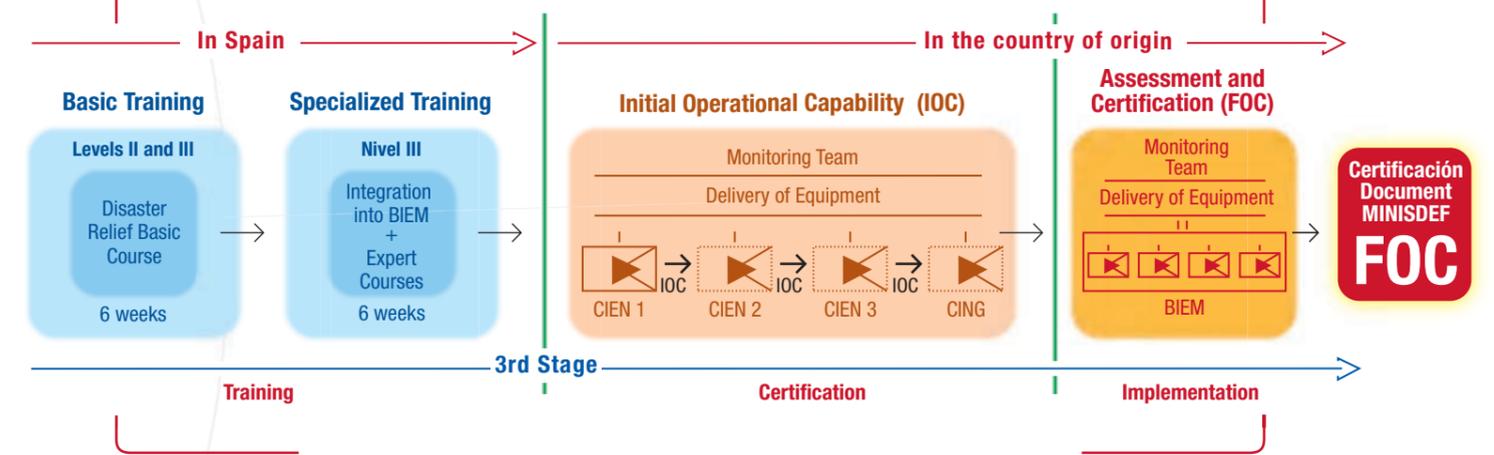
To do this, a **basic training period** will be established, during which all the personnel with level II and level III will attend the Curso Básico de Emergencias (Disaster Relief Basic Course) (CBE), which will take place in Spain and will have a duration of six weeks. In addition to this, a **period of specialized training** will be organized during which all the personnel with level III will join an Emergency Response Battalion of the UME, where they will participate in all kinds of exercises and will attend the expert training courses that may be deemed necessary.

Once the training of the personnel in Spain has been completed, they will return to their country **accompanied by a Spanish monitoring team** that will direct and develop the relevant drilling and training activities and will carefully monitor the process of creation of the new unit.

If agreed, Spain will provide the material needed in order to create the first **Compañía de Intervención en Emergencias Naturales (Natural Disaster Response Company) (CIEN)**, which will also be provided with all the equipment, both individual and collective, necessary to deal with catastrophes.



Military Assistance Operation for the training of disaster relief military units (FORUME) (3rd Stage)



Next, an assessment that will make it possible to certify the **Initial Operational Capability (IOC)** of each and every one of the CIENs created will be carried out. And in order to do so, a team made up of personnel from the UME will be sent from Spain to the applicant nation to ensure that the initial operating capability of the units assessed be certified. The duration will be variable.

Once all the Companies have completed their training and received the corresponding material, the **Final Operational Capability (FOC)** of the whole Emergency Response Battalion will be assessed.





This stage will end with a certification of the **Ministry of Defense of Spain** stating that all the commitments entered into in the Agreement between both Governments or in the MoU have been met. In short, this stage ends when the new disaster relief military unit has been constituted, equipped, and trained.

Costs

The calculation of the costs incurred in the creation of an emergency response battalion is variable and depends on the needs of each nation, which must have been previously defined and agreed upon by the Joint Working Group during the first stage and ratified in the Agreement between both governments.

However, in order to achieve a good rationalization and an efficient management of the resources available, the Disaster Relief Military Unit will put its professional advice and its experience in the creation of such a unit, as well as contacts with companies specialized in the field of defense, at the disposal of the nations involved.

The **UME** offers
friendly nations
professional **advice**,
experience in creating
specialized in emergency response
and **contacts**
with the industry of defense.



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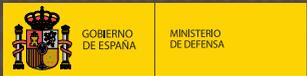
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