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An inclusive approach to search and rescue operations

- Benefiting from the capacities and seeing to the needs of different groups





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MSB – A new Swedish government authority for societal safety

- Stemming from the
 - Swedish Rescue Services Agency (SRSA),
 - the Swedish Emergency Management Agency,
 - and the Swedish National Board of Psychological Defence.
- From Jan 2009 MSB is responsible for matters concerning;
 - emergency prevention
 - preparedness, response and recovery
 - civil defence



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MSB:s work until now

- Mostly focussed on sensitization and operational guidance on Gender - and to some extent disabilities in
 - Training
 - Induction training for internal staff
 - SWIFT training
 - Induction training for Field staff
 - Gender analysis for long-term projects – as a base for project design
 - MSB; gender advisor for operational input
 - Handbooks on Disabilities and Gender Equality in operations

All persons have equal rights – also equal opportunity for survival!

Two views to that challenge:

- **Disability issues**

- **Gender issues**

Disabilities perspective on SAR operations

- Aim: Ensure that operations are exercised without discrimination!
- What is a disability?
 - Impairments, Disabilities, Handicaps...
- How to respond?
 - Hands-on advice for meetings with persons with special needs

Disabilities perspective on SAR operations

- Practical guidelines
- Training
- Analyze which needs are accurate for the recovery/build up phase

Gender perspective on SAR operations

- Gendered use of space
- Mobility restrictions
- Seeing to the health needs of different groups
- Difference in accessing humanitarian relief
- Ambition; to reach the whole population and to;
 - Strive towards gender balance (at least 40 % of underrepresented sex)
 - Ensure that women participate fully and on equal terms with men at all levels;
 - Increase protection of women and girls;
 - Ensure application of gender perspective throughout the project cycle



What are we doing now?

MSB handbook on persons with disabilities in emergency situations

MSB handbook on gender equality
– practical advice for international assistance (nov 2009)

For a copy send an e-mail to;
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Conclusions and Recommendations

- Adopt an inclusive, holistic approach
- Training / awareness / attitudes
- Continue sharing of knowledge, experience and good practise



Thank you!