



INSARAG Guidelines 2026

Appendix 5.5: RDC Establishment Checklist

**Endorsed and approved by the INSARAG Steering
Group on 10 March 2026**

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Abbreviations

BoO	Base of Operations
ERS	Emergency Response Section
EMT	Emergency Medical Team
GDACS	Global Disaster Awareness and Coordination System
GRG	Guidelines Review Group
HNPW	Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week
HNS	Host Nation Support
IEC	INSARAG External Classification
IER	INSARAG External Reclassification
IMTST	Information Management Technical Support Team
IRNAP	INSARAG-Recognised National Accreditation Process
INSARAG	The International Search and Rescue Advisory Group
ISG	INSARAG Steering Group
LEMA	Local Emergency Management Authority
NAP	National Accreditation Process
NGOs	Non-governmental organisations
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OSOCC	On-Site Operations Coordination Centre
RDC	Reception and Departure Centre
RSB	Response Support Branch
UCC	USAR Coordination Cell
USAR	Urban Search and Rescue
UN	United Nations
UNDAC	United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination
VOSOCC	Virtual On-Site Operations Coordination Centre

1 RDC Establishment Checklist

RDC Establishment Checklist	
Identify airport authorities or equivalent and determine focal points for air and ground traffic control, administration, logistics, customs, immigration, security, humanitarian aid storage facilities, and, if necessary, military liaison.	
Arrange for airport official passes, particularly if required to go airside on the airport.	
Brief airport authorities with partners on the purpose of the RDC and OSOCC and how it supports the arrival of international actors and relief items.	
Negotiate a venue for the RDC that is visible and easily accessible but not too exposed to public traffic.	
Establish the RDC with communication links and ICT equipment.	
Establish one or more reception desks easily visible and accessible.	
Prepare for crowd management, including: - Place signage to the RDC throughout the airport. - Visible signal (RDC flags) on reception desks and RDC. Arrangements for paging with airport authorities.	
Preparation of waiting area for arriving teams including area for search dogs.	
Arrangements for customs, immigration and administrative support for arriving teams.	
Arrangements for transport of teams to the disaster site.	
Prepare briefing hand-outs about own purpose, contact information and situation update.	
If available, distribute maps.	
Prepare questionnaires for registration of arriving teams.	
Prepare briefing for arriving teams.	
Prepare for support of departing teams, including accommodation, logistics, and flight booking.	
Prepare questionnaires for departing teams.	
Develop exit strategy, including the identification of procedures that should be maintained and the entities to which they should be handed over.	
Liaise with responsible authorities to provide information about the purpose and capability of the RDC by providing assistance to airport authorities in processing arriving international relief teams to facilitate rapid deployment to the disaster-affected area.	
Establish a sequence of stations to allow the rapid processing of arriving relief teams. The stations should include immigration, customs, registration, briefing, logistics, and transport to the site.	
Supervise the activities of RDC staff through the operation.	
Ensure an information flow from the RDC to the OSOCC/UCC and the LEMA.	
Facilitate logistics support for arriving International relief teams in cooperation with the LEMA and airport authorities. This task includes determining logistics requirements of arriving USAR Teams, making necessary logistical arrangements with the LEMA and briefing newly arrived relief teams accordingly.	

If the RDC is requested by the OSOCC or the LEMA to assist with the tracking of international contributions, the RDC/UCC Logistics functions would be assigned this responsibility.
Liaise with the Logistics Cluster if and when established.
Ensure the establishment of the RDC, including station for rapid processing of arriving relief teams.
Ensure the set-up and operation of any electronic equipment that is required to carry out its task, including ICT equipment, internet connectivity and communication within the RDC.
Register information about arriving relief teams at dedicated reception stations and share this information with the OSOCC/UCC and other stakeholders.
Establish a system for filing and back-up of electronic documents on a regular basis.

2 RDC Layout

Proposed RDC Layout

