

Bundesanstalt Technisches Hilfswerk (THW; German Federal Agency for Technical Relief)

THW, the German Federal Agency for Technical Relief, a governmental organisation (GO), belonging to the Federal Ministry of the Interior, is possibly “unique” across the world. 99 percent of the 80.000 THW-members work on a voluntary basis for the governmental organisation, only one percent of the staff works full-time. Organised in 668 local sections throughout Germany, equipped with modern equipment and well-trained relief workers, THW assists at local, regional, national and international level. Search and rescue, fighting against flooding, electricity supply, technical support of infrastructure, drinking water supply, command and communication, and logistics support are some of THW’s operational capacities. A central database of THW staff, qualified and available for missions abroad as well as a logistics centre serve as the key elements for rapid international deployment. A close cooperation on bilateral level as well as in the framework of the United Nations and the European Union are essential for THW’s daily work.

Since its foundation in 1950 THW has been providing manifold assistance in a large number of emergencies within Germany and abroad.

THW is one of the active partners in the European Civil Protection Mechanism, taking part in missions, planning and implementing various trainings and exercises.

In general, preparing staff for missions abroad is of very high priority for THW. In addition to trainings and exercises for THW staff, THW plans and conducts trainings and exercises within the framework of the EU und UN for and with its international partners.

Trainings

- Operational Management (OPM) Courses since 2004
- Assessment Mission Courses (AMC) since 2006
- 5 Modules Basic Courses (MBC) in 2009/2010
- Operational Management Refresher (OPMR) Course in 2008 / 2009, and 2012
- Community Mechanism Induction (CMI) Courses in 2004 and 2005
- Pilot Course “Train the Trainers - First Responders” in Singapore 2008
- UN Joint Logistics Center (JLC) Training since 2004
- UNHCR Training: “Workshop on emergency management for lead functions in the system” since 2000
- UNHCR Training: “Workshop on emergency information management” in 2012

- United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) Team Refresher Courses
- Etc.

Exercises:

- WFP OPEX Bravo, Interagency ICT exercise in 2012
 - Implementation of the IPA Civil Protection Programme – Lot 2 in 2011 / 2012
 - 5 Modules Table Top Exercises 2010/ 2011
 - Exercise within the framework of the EU CP Mechanism: Orion 2010
 - Exercise within the framework of the EU CP Mechanism: EVROS 2010
 - Exercise within the framework of the EU CP Mechanism: Floodex 2009
 - Exercise within the framework of the EU CP Mechanism: EULUX 2007
- Etc.