

2. COUNTRY-LEVEL CASE STUDIES

Country Overview	
France	
Legislative framework for armed forces' use for civil protection	<p>Civil Protection Modernization Act No. 2004-811 (2004) French White Paper on Defence and National Security (2013)</p> <p>The latter defines natural and human-made disasters as a direct threat to the “essential functions of the nation”, thereby authorizing the French armed forces to intervene in such events. As a result, the French military is often called upon by civilian authorities during natural disasters or extreme weather events.</p>
Key civilian authority/ies	<p>General Directorate for Civil Protection and Crisis Management (DGSCGC)</p> <p>The General Directorate for Civil Protection and Crisis Management (<i>Direction Générale de la Sécurité Civile et de la Gestion des Crises</i> (DGSCGC)) serves as the organizing and coordinating body for civil protection at the national level, with additional responsibilities including disaster prevention research and training for relief operations.</p>
Armed forces branch(es) primarily involved	<p>Armed Forces (all branches)</p>
Cases of use / Good practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National & international healthcare support, including Covid-19 response operations Following the French President’s declaration of “war” against COVID-19 in March 2021, Operation “Resilience” was launched involving all branched of the French Armed Forces with the aim of alleviating the pressure on the French civilian infrastructures and focusing on three domains: healthcare, logistics (i.e. the supply and delivery of essential medical supplies), and protection (i.e. vaccination distribution). Under the instructions of the Ministry for Solidarity and Health, the French Defence Health Service (SSA) got fully involved in the fight against the virus by expanding healthcare capacities through the construction of supplementary intensive care beds, the organization of healthcare teams, and patient transfers. • Fire-fighting operations Operation Hephaestos (named after the ancient Greek god of fire) is an annual military operation to support local firefighter units control wildfires during peak summer temperatures. • Natural disaster response and management National military forces were deployed during the 2010 Cyclone Xynthia. The French military were also called upon to provide assistance in the French territory of Saint Martin in the Caribbean after the 2017 Hurricane Irma.
Follow-up questions / concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At what stage and by whom are the troops called in for civil protection tasks? • What is the hierarchy and standard operating procedures between civilian and military authorities in civil protection operations? • Who pays for the civil protection activities of the military? • Any concern about bringing the military into civilian activities? • What about training within the military and between the military and civilian authorities? • What about cross border cooperation with other countries’ military and civilian authorities for civil protection operations? • What about engagement in coordination via NATO, the UN or other mechanism, e.g. the EU?
<p><i>Indicative Bibliography</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opillard, Florian, Angélique Palle & Léa Michelis. 2020. “Discourse and Strategic Use of the Military in France and Europe in the COVID-19 Crisis.” <i>Tijdschrift Voor Economische En Sociale Geografie</i> 111(3): 239–59. • “The French General Directorate for Civil Protection and Crisis Management –.” <i>PROCULTHER Consortium</i>. https://www.proculther.eu/dgscgc/ • Renda-Tanali, I., & Mancebo, F. (2010). French Emergency Management System: Moving Toward an Integrated Risk Management Policy. In <i>Comparative Emergency Management: Understanding Disaster Policies, Organizations, and Initiatives from Around the World</i>. https://www.training.fema.gov/hiedu/aemrc/booksdownload/compemgmtbookproject/ 	