

# OPERATIONS UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## TURKEY: EARTHQUAKE IN BINGOL PROVINCE

12 March 2004

Appeal No. 09/2003 ; Operations Update no. 5

The original appeal was launched on 2 May 2003 for CHF 2,384,000 (USD 1,770,079 / EUR 1,579,296) for six months for 36,000 beneficiaries.

In July 2003, the budget was reduced to CHF 1,418,000 (click operations update no. 3 below)

[http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?03/090303.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?03/090303.pdf)

Period covered: 18 December 2003 – 10 March 2004

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries.  
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### In Brief

**Contributions:** For the latest list, please click on the web link below for details:

[http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?03/1-2-3%20-%20ap0903.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?03/1-2-3%20-%20ap0903.pdf)

**Related Emergency or Annual Appeals:** Turkey Annual Appeal (01.79/2004)

### Operational Developments

While other organizations have come and gone, the Turkish Red Crescent continues to work with the communities in south-eastern Turkey. Almost a year ago, the region was rocked by an earthquake, registering 6.4 on the Richter scale and killing over 170 people, many of them schoolchildren trapped in a dormitory. According to official statistics some 521 people were injured. The worst affected areas were Bingol and surrounding towns and villages, including Celtiksuyu, Sancak and Cimenli.

The legacy of the earthquake is still visible. People suffered considerably, both mentally and physically and the region's infrastructure was damaged.

The Red Crescent's emergency intervention included light search and rescue, distribution of water, food, clothing, tents, blankets and hygiene items. In tandem with the relief, the Turkish Red Crescent provided psychological support to victims of the earthquake to help them get back to their daily routine.

After the emergency intervention was completed, the Federation has shifted its focus to strengthen the Turkish Red Crescent (Kizilay as it is known in Turkish) disaster management capacity to ensure effective response during future calamities. The priorities are:

**Turkey: earthquake in Bingol province; Appeal no. 09/2003; Operations Update no. 5**

- establishment of a disaster management centre in one of the Kizilay branches;
- training of staff and volunteers in different areas such as first aid, monitoring and reporting;
- procurement of canvas for the production of tents and protection boxes for emergency field equipment; and
- development of groups of psycho-social support trainers and volunteers to help people, affected by the disaster, cope with their emotional, psychological and behavioural needs.

Consultations with the national society continue to establish a disaster management centre either in Bingol, neighbouring Diyarbakir or Elazig, based on analysis of branch capacity and location.

The procurement of canvas for tents is arranged internationally through the Federation secretariat in Geneva.

The psycho-social component will be implemented in Bingol, Diyarbakir, Elazig, Mus and Batman. Based on the information provided by Red Crescent Directorate of Branches as well as the initial report prepared by the psycho-support team and the field work conducted, Diyarbakir has been identified as a coordination center to launch the psycho-social support activities. The activities include:

- Identifying disaster victims who still need psycho-social support, referring or providing these people with psycho-social support and duplicating and distributing relevant materials (brochures, etc).
- Identifying the needs of psycho-social support services of Red Crescent branches that are within the scope of the project.
- Developing a 'psychological first aid training of trainers programme' that has different levels for Red Crescent personnel and volunteers, professional and the public.
- Increasing the number of volunteers of Red Crescent branches that are within the scope of the project, training of these volunteers and enhancing the capacity for disasters.
- Carrying out cooperative activities with public institutions and civil society organizations in order to identify the psycho-social support capacity of the project provinces.
- Including in the psycho-social support training programme the disaster personnel who work at organizations and institutions that will respond to future emergencies.
- Establishing cooperation to ensure that the mentioned organizations can provide efficient psycho-social support service at a possible disaster; developing sectoral plans that are consistent with Red Crescent overall disaster plan.
- Establishing a referral system to the public health system for more complicated cases.

Recent change of the leadership in the Turkish Red Crescent, however, delayed implementation. Approaches to the operation were re-discussed and agreed on with the new management. To accommodate the projected activities, the timeframe of the programme has been extended for another three months and will close now on 30 June 2004.

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*All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

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