

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



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***

27 January, 2003

*Information Bulletin N° 1*

*Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: N/A*

*This Bulletin is intended for information only. The Federation is not seeking any funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.*

### ***The Situation***

A major earthquake registering a magnitude of 6.5 on the Richter Scale shook Tunceli Province in eastern Turkey this morning (27 January). The Bogazici University Kandilli Observatory reported that the quake occurred at 7:26 a.m. and was centered in the town of Pulumur, located in mountainous area. A total of 21 mild aftershocks measuring from 3.0 to 3.8 were recorded following the initial 6.5 magnitude quake.

One person has reportedly died after being trapped under rubble in the Saglamtas village in Pulumur, while three people were injured after jumping out of the windows of their houses because of panic during the earthquake. These people were hospitalized and reported to be in good condition.

Access to the area is blocked and officials in the affected area indicated that initial information of the extent of the damage was difficult to received. Pulumur has a population of 2,000, with 1,600 people living in surrounding villages.

Earthquakes and tremors are very common in Turkey's southeast region, where most of the provinces lie on the active North Anatolian fault line. In 1962, Pulumur was hit by an earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter Scale that killed 97 people and injured 267.

### ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

Immediately after the earthquake the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS) despatched relief items to the region, and the President of the TRCS announced that a TRCS Disaster Operation Center (AFOM) Crisis Committee has been assembled after the quake to respond to the immediate needs. According to initial rough reports, the following items have been sent to the region to meet immediate needs: 10 multi-functional large tents that can shelter 30-40 people, 100 heaters from the TRCS Erzincan and Elazig branch warehouses, 115 family tents, 2,000 blankets and food items had been forwarded to the region.

The TRCS President has also indicated that, according to initial information received from the Elazig and Erzurum branches, 1 light search and rescue team (LSAR), 1 health team (1 doctor, 2 nurses), 1 ambulance and 1 satellite phone for communications have been sent to the region.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

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

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

*For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.*

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