



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

1 May, 2003

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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. Based on further updates and details from assessment reports, or should the situation deteriorate, the Federation may consider international support through an Appeal.

The Situation

An earthquake measuring 6.4 on the Richter Scale shook Turkey's southeastern Bingol Province on Thursday 1 May 2003 at 03.27 local time. Bingol is on the Eastern Anatolia Fault Line (lying within a 1st degree earthquake zone). The last major earthquake occurred in Bingol on May 22, 1971 and left 900 people killed. According to local authorities the death toll is around 150, with about 300 injured. The Bingol State Hospital Chief Doctor reported the death toll is increasing, and ambulance services are particularly needed. Officials reported that electricity and communications were cut off in the area. Civil defence rescue teams have been sent from the Diyarbakir and Elazig Provinces to assist in the search and rescue activities. The epicenter of the quake is close to Bingol town, and the Governor of Bingol Province indicated some buildings had collapsed in the city center. There are concerns that the death toll could rise dramatically from the collapse of a dormitory at the Celtiksuyu Primary Boarding School. Soldiers, civilian defence teams, and citizens are assisting in efforts to rescue students who are trapped under the debris. Some 50 students were rescued, but reports indicate over 140 remain trapped under the rubble.

The Bogazici University Kandilli Observatory reports that further aftershocks registering more than magnitude five could be experienced, and recommended that damaged houses remain off limits. Some 50 aftershocks were recorded in the region, with the largest one measuring 3.8 on the Richter Scale.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Action

Following the crisis meeting in the Disaster Operation Center, Turkish Red Crescent (Kizilay) expedited the delivery of the following emergency relief materials from regional warehouses in Elazig and Erzurum, the Silopi logistics center, the Erzurum and Diyarbakir Blood Centers, and the Kizilay Van Branch: 500 tents, 3,000 blankets, 5 mobile kitchens, 3 generators and 1 communication vehicle from the Elazig Regional Warehouse, 2 mobile kitchens from the Erzurum warehouse, 1,000 tents, 5,000 blankets, 4 tonnes of foodstuff and 1 mobile clinic from the Silopi Logistics Center, 630 tents from the Kizilay Van Branch and 4 ambulances and 11 health personnel in total from the Diyarbakir and Erzurum Blood Centers. Plans are to send 4,500 more tents to house 25,000 people. Kizilay branches in Erzurum and Diyarbakir sent 2 doctors and 8 nurses.

At the same time, a Light Search and Rescue Team of the Kizilay Disaster Operation Center has moved to the region. The President of Kizilay and the Turkish Prime Minister are on their way to the earthquake site.

Turkey has not requested external assistance, however a number of National Societies including the Norwegian, Spanish, French have offered assistance and placed their ERUs on standby if needed.

The Federation's regional delegation in Ankara is sending an information delegate and psycho-social delegate who will provide assistance in strengthening the overall response, in coordination with the Turkish Red Crescent team already in place

THW (the German Government relief agency) is on standby with an aircraft to take a German search and rescue team to Bingol. The German Red Cross is planning to send medical supplies and a Field Assessment Coordination Team (FACT)-trained delegate if it is required.

Further information will be made available on the Federation's Disaster Management Information System (DMIS): <https://www-secure.ifrc.org/dmis/index.htm>).

For a full description of the National Society profile, see www.ifrc.org

For further details please contact:

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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.