Almost two weeks into the post-disaster activity, the Red Cross Red Crescent continues to maintain essential support to people affected by the earthquake, working in close collaboration with the Turkish Red Crescent. This report primarily comprises a summary of PNS programmes and assistance, coordinated in conjunction with the International Federation.

The context

On 17 August at 03h02 local time a massive earthquake measuring between 7.4 and 7.8 on the Richter scale and lasting 45 seconds hit northwestern Turkey. More than 300 aftershocks were reported, some as high as 4.5 on the Richter scale. Izmit, an industrial city of one million in western Turkey, was nearest the epicentre. But the force of the tremor was felt as far away as Ankara, the capital, some 500 km to the east, and across parts of the Balkans. Geophysicists described the quake as one of the most powerful this century, nearly rivalling the 7.9 magnitude earthquake that devastated San Francisco in 1906.

The Turkish government declared a state of emergency and requested international assistance. The International Federation first issued an Alert on 17 August, and at the request of the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS) followed up by launching a Preliminary Appeal to support the society's emergency relief operation. This Preliminary Appeal will be followed shortly by a full appeal, which has been agreed in principle with the Turkish Red Crescent, leaving some specific details to be worked out.

Update

According to the latest statistics from a leading London-based international credit rating agency, the earthquake will result in a financial loss of $5-10 billion and cause physical damage estimated to be equal to 2.5 to 5 percent of Turkey's gross domestic product (GDP). However, in spite of the extensive losses, the agency believes Turkey's economy can recover quickly. There will short-term effects on production, financial position and balance of payments, but in the medium term, the quake is not considered likely to affect Turkey's economic future and credibility. Turkey's GDP is expected to drop by two percent in 1999, but rebuilding the damaged infrastructure and housing in the earthquake region will contribute to economic growth in Turkey during the next year, increasing the growth rate in 2000 by 1 to 4.5 percent.

Weekend media reports have focused on the thousands of earthquake survivors suffering from post-quake trauma. Tens of thousands are in mourning, and experts say a larger group has become terrified of earthquakes. People complain of anxiety, inability to sleep, fear of another earthquake, and
fear of being alone. Experts say most people will suffer from post quake disorders for more than six months. Many people pulled from the rubble were in a state of 'emotional isolation', and were having difficulty realising what happened to them. Another group requiring specialised attention are the estimated 220,000 homeless children who will need extra help and counselling.

The Turkish medical establishment has addressed the situation in various ways. The Bakurkoy mental hospital has prepared a booklet with such advice as, 'don't refrain from talking about your ordeal'; and 'think about life's meaning and draw plans for the future', and have assigned psychiatrists to answer questions on the hospital's 'Light of Hope' hotline. The hospital is working to set up two field units where psychiatrists can help children suffering from shock. Turkish people are reticent to voice their problems and rarely seek help outside their family. In a country where few people visit psychiatrists or seek therapy or counselling, dozens of mostly working class people were seen gathered outside the Bakurkoy Hospital seeking medical care for post-quake trauma.

The latest official casualty figures are: 14,095 persons dead and 27,233 persons injured; damage assessment statistics to 28 August include, 1,332 building collapsed, 1,423 condemned (all in Istanbul), 13,681 heavily damaged, 14,701 moderately damaged, and 1,788 lightly damaged.

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<th>Persons Dead</th>
<th>Persons Injured</th>
<th>Buildings Collapsed/Condemned</th>
<th>Heavily Damaged</th>
<th>Moderate or Light Damage</th>
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Red Cross/Red Crescent action

**Turkish Red Crescent**

In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, the TRCS were charged with coordinating customs clearance, transport and distribution to local crisis centres of humanitarian relief aid, and has set up and is managing several camps for thousands of homeless, providing hot meals in the camps and throughout the earthquake affected area. In recent days it has become apparent that the authorities are assuming a more central role in the transport and distribution of relief, particularly tents, while, as indicated in situation report no 3, establishing adequate reporting and monitoring systems remains a challenge.

**Health**

The 120-bed Norwegian Emergency Response Unit (ERU) field hospital has now been operational in Izmit for just over a week and reports no major problems. Twenty-two doctors, nurses and technicians have carried out a total of 21 surgical operations (five of them major) and have been treating an average of fourteen in-patients. The Norwegian doctors have seen about 100 people in the past four days. The team say they have not seen any evidence of the reported large number of respiratory and infectious diseases among people living outdoors, although the weather has been bad with rain and low temperatures at night. They report that the ambulance service in Izmit seems to be functioning well. The ERU is operating under an agreement with two of the four Izmit hospitals destroyed in the quake (out of a total of eight) -- Kocaeli and University hospitals. The teams say, however, that there is an evident lack of cooperation between the two hospitals, which report to different administrative structures and
receive their funds from different sources. They call for a further detailed assessment of the medical situation so that a decision can be made on whether to extend their stay beyond the four weeks already planned. An appeal by UNICEF launched over the weekend includes provision for psycho-social activities.

**PNS review**

At least 17 National Societies have assigned personnel to Turkey since the earthquake struck, to undertake a variety of tasks in cooperation with TRCS, including search and rescue, assessment, relief, health, water/sanitation and tracing activities. Much of this work has been carried out under the umbrella of the International Federation with regular coordination meetings organised and consistent contact and consultation with the TRCS, both at the local level in Istanbul and the disaster area and Ankara. Additionally, at least 18 National Societies have dispatched donations of relief supplies and equipment.

The following review has been compiled using the information available to the International Federation's reporting delegate in Istanbul. Any errors or omissions should be directed to the Turkey desk at the Geneva Secretariat (see contact details at the end of this report).

**American Red Cross:** The American Red Cross has implemented a rapid health assessment survey, working with a team from the US. Center for Disease Control and Johns Hopkins University. The survey data is derived from interviews in a representative sample of households in the earthquake affected area, and is being analysed this week. The survey covers the acute needs, including potable water, food, shelter, sanitation, health care, electricity and access to information. The TRCS has given full cooperation and plans to use the information from the survey which will be useful in planning appropriate short and long-term public health needs. The American Red Cross is currently assessing needs for psycho-social and other programmes and has had up to 17 delegates in-country.

A co-operative effort is underway between the German and American Red Cross Societies to facilitate communication to families, and developing tracing systems within the TRCS. Family linking services are fully operational in three tent centres, and mobile capabilities to bring communication services to those with little available access (Yalova, Izmit, Golcuk and Adapazari). The service offers free two-minute use of a cellular or satellite telephone to contact relatives abroad, thus alleviating anxiety. The TRCS will be able take over the operation after systems are fully established and the local branches are able to shift focus from the demands of immediate relief activities.

**Austrian Red Cross:** The Society has assigned an ERU to provide potable water and sanitation services to five established tent cities in the Golcuk area, also covering the city of Golcuk. The unit can supply up to 20,000 persons with water and cover basic sanitation needs. Latrines, washing and shower facilities, and garbage collection and disposal will be provided. The programme is being implemented with full cooperation from both the TRCS and the local municipal crisis committee. Following reports of a deteriorating water and sanitation situation in Yalova, the Austrian team will be conducting a detailed assessment.

**British Red Cross:** A staff member from the Society's headquarters in London has provided specialist logistics input to the Federation's assessment team.

**Belgium Red Cross:** A medical team of six persons arrived on 22 August and are providing out-patient medical care to more than 100 persons per day at Sarayli (Golcuk), near a camp located in a football field. (The camp has 400 persons, but will be home to 1,000 within a few days, when smaller camps are consolidated there.) The team brought 100 tents. They are also dispensing medicines and hygiene supplies in a mobile unit. The team includes three doctors and one nurse. The medical team is prepared to stay until mid-November if needed.

**Bulgarian Red Cross:** The Society dispatched a search and rescue team in the immediate aftermath of the catastrophe.
French Red Cross: The director of the national society's international department came to Turkey (24-27 August) to assess needs. Relief supplies due to arrive include 150 tents, 55 plastic sheeting rolls, 2.2 tonnes essential drugs, 40 blood pressure cuffs, 40 stethoscopes. Also, four trucks have left France carrying 150,000 diapers and other hygienic products.

Japanese Red Cross: A team of three doctors, five nurses and three co-ordinators have been working in an emergency field clinic at Uzunçiflik Beldesi since 22 August, just a few kilometres outside Izmit. Its members are integrated with a Turkish medical team co-ordinated by the regional crisis centre. The team has been treating about 250 patients a day.

German Red Cross: An ERU team arrived on 21 August and were operational by 23 August, an 80-bed (can be expanded to 120) field hospital was established near Golcuk, providing out-patient care, surgery, paediatrics, obstetrics. The ERU has x-ray and other diagnostic equipment, an isolation ward, drug dispensary and 2 ambulances. The hospital serves as a back-up to the affected areas of the Turkish medical system. The expatriate team includes 24 German medical professionals and other staff, and three Macedonian Red Cross staff who accompanied the unit when it was transported from Macedonia after assisting Kosovo refugees. The goal is for the field hospital to be staffed fully by Turkish doctors and nurses. Presently, Turkish medical personnel have been stretched to their limits and many are exhausted. A German Red Cross field kitchen is providing meals for patients and hospital staff. The German Red Cross is also leading the tracing project delegation, which is seeking to expand its activities with the end of the immediate emergency phase.

Hellenic Red Cross: Medical teams are located at the crisis centre in Golcuk's state hospital, and in a mobile unit which is covering needs of the TRCS tent city near Golcuk and the surrounding villages. There are 16 medical and other personnel, who arrived 19 August.

Italian Red Cross: A senior desk officer arrives today (30 August) to review relief assistance activities ahead of future fund-raising initiatives.

Icelandic Red Cross: An information officer loaned by the Society worked with the Federation's reporting/information team in Istanbul for a week in the immediate aftermath of the disaster.

Republic of Korea Red Cross: A senior officer from the International Relations Department and a logistics specialist arrived 27 August, to co-ordinate hand over of relief supplies to the TRCS. The relief shipment included 500 tents, 1,000 blankets and medicines. The team will depart 30 August.

Netherlands Red Cross: A logistics representative arrived 25 August to assess needs and co-ordinate the transport of aid.

Norwegian Red Cross: Arrived on 21 August and established within 24 hours a 120-bed field hospital (can be expanded to 250) near Izmit, providing surgery, paediatrics, obstetrics, and an intensive care unit. It has x-ray and other diagnostic equipment, an isolation ward and pharmacy. The field hospital is set up within the compound of the Kocaeli hospital, near the university hospital. The hospital serves as a back-up to the affected areas of the Turkish medical system. The 22-member expatriate team of 6 doctors, 9 nurses, 3 technicians, 2 laboratory engineers, 1 administrator, and 1 co-ordinator, is working as a joint operation with Turkish doctors and nurses.

Spanish Red Cross: A basic health unit with 40 beds became fully operational on 29 August, located at two accessible areas of the Emirdag camp (near Adapazari), at the entrance and in the centre. The unit serves as a back-up to the affected areas of the Turkish medical system, and has all the necessary equipment for basic medical treatment and preventative health assistance. From the first day, Turkish medical staff had the lead role in providing medical care. The 10-member expatriate team of doctors, nurses, technicians and co-ordinators, are working side-by-side with Turkish doctors and nurses. The
unit will be handed over to Turkish staff as soon as the set-up and operation of equipment is well established.

**Swedish Red Cross:** A representative came to Turkey (24-27 August) to assess needs, consideration is being given to providing all-weather tents and other relief goods.

**Swiss Red Cross:** A specialist from the International Cooperation Department arrived 21 August and is currently providing relief supplies in the Izmit area with the support of the local TRCS branch, including 1,000 family tents.

Fund-raising campaigns are currently underway in Britain, Croatia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, and Slovakia.

**Outstanding needs**

A full list will be shown in the full appeal due to be published shortly. In the meantime, please refer to previous situation reports.

**Contributions**

*See Annex 1 for details.*

*For further information please contact the following:*

{ **International Federation, Geneva:** Charles Eldred-Evans; tel: +41 22 730 4325; mobile: 41 79 217 3363; email: eldred@ifrc.org or Penny Elghady; tel: +41 22 730 4319; email: elghady@ifrc.org

**Peter Rees-Gildea**
Director
Operations Funding and Reporting Department

**Renny Nancholas**
Director
Europe Department