

PROGRAMME 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

30 June 2003

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Appeal Target: CHF 5,229,504 (USD 3,586,194 or EUR 3,552,229)

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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

Appeal coverage: Covered, see weblink below:

http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual03/1-2-3%20-%20ap018003.pdf

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Bingol earthquake (09/2003)

Programme Summary: The Federation continues to assist the Turkish Red Crescent (Kizilay as it is known in Turkish), in its efforts to enhance disaster management capacities, develop a three year strategic plan and strengthen its volunteer management system. Attention has been directed towards increasing public awareness to prevent further the spread of HIV/AIDS in Turkey through peer education, workshops and media campaigns. The period, however, saw slow progress in achieving the programme objectives. Their implementation has been hampered by preparedness efforts of the national society to the potential humanitarian crisis in neighboring Iraq. Additionally, the greater part of Turkish Red Crescent resources have been diverted to assisting victims of a devastating earthquake in south-eastern region of the country in May.

Operational developments

After years of mounting difficulties, the economic situation in Turkey remains serious. Exchange rate volatility, which has been a major source of instability since the devaluation of the Turkish lira in February 2001, has continued. Some experts forecast another financial crisis in 2004 that will trigger severe recession. Already in the first quarter of this year the annual rate of consumer price inflation started to climb again, reaching 29.5% in April compared with 26.4% in January. This is reflected in generally higher international oil prices and agricultural price increases.

An economic recovery programme was agreed by the Government of Turkey with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 2002.

The government has pledged to progress with tax reforms and privatisation and to trim jobs in the public sector. Its success largely depends on the ability to meet targets and conditions agreed with the IMF as well as the



sustainability of Turkey's debt. In April, the IMF completed the fourth review of Turkey's economic performance under the stand-by agreement and approved a credit tranche of USD 701m, rather than USD 1.6bn under the original programme.

Developments in the Middle East triggered concerns in Turkey over potential significant humanitarian consequences, including population movements from Iraq. The International Federation, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Turkish Red Crescent formulated a strong, flexible, and cohesive Movement-wide strategy. The Federation's priorities were focused on supporting the national society in its efforts to effectively deliver assistance to the people of Iraq by scaling up operational capacity; enhanced disaster preparedness training; pre-positioning of stocks; and preparing camp sites for refugees or displaced persons. The massive influx of refugees into Turkey, however, did not materialize. Kizilay has scaled down its presence in the border areas. All staff deployed have returned to their branches. Efforts are being made to integrate the lessons learned into ongoing programmes.

Over 170 people, many of them schoolchildren trapped in their dormitory, died in the earthquake in the Bingol area of southeastern Turkey. The effect of the earthquake, which took place on 1 May 2003 at 3:20 am with a magnitude of 6.4 on the Richter scale, was relatively isolated. Almost all dead and missing discovered within three days. According to the official statistics 521 people were injured¹. The worst single tragedy was the collapse of a primary boarding school, killing 85 children and one teacher. 115 children were rescued. The earthquake caused damage and injuries in Bingol and in surrounding towns and villages, including Celtiksuyu, Sancak and Cimenli, Goltepsi.

Health and care

Goal: Awareness of HIV/AIDS in specific target groups in Turkey is created, and the spread of HIV/AIDS related stigmatisation and discrimination was prevented.

Objective: The Turkish Red Crescent contributed to an increased public awareness for preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS as well as changed attitudes towards people living with HIV/AIDS among health personnel of the Red Crescent.

Progress/Achievements: The Turkish Red Crescent is an active member of the national commission on HIV/AIDS and has played an instrumental role in the development of the national plan of action for 2003-2005 to prevent stigmatisation and discrimination of people living with HIV/AIDS. Within this plan, Turkish Red Crescent efforts have been focused on training its staff and volunteers as well as the public to raise the awareness of HIV/AIDS related issues.

¹Note: figures from the Crisis Centre at the Governorate of the Province of Bingol.

The national society designed and printed posters and brochures with key messages on HIV/AIDS. A total of 1,000 posters and 200 brochures have been distributed to Red Crescent first aid instructors, health personnel at the Turkish Red Crescent blood centres, medical and community centres. Another 1,000 posters and 5,000 brochures were distributed to young people during the national youth festival in Ankara. Preparations are ongoing for the training of the Red Crescent staff and volunteers due to take place in the second half of the year. In an effort to reduce stigmatization and discrimination of people living with HIV/AIDS, the Turkish Red Crescent will carry out a nation-wide media campaign in cooperation with national TV channels and a leading newspaper.

Impact: The Turkish Red Crescent is one of the key players in the country contributing to increasing the public awareness on HIV/AIDS related issues.

Constraints: The implementation of the project has been hampered by preparedness efforts of the national society to potential humanitarian crisis caused by the anticipated massive population movements from neighbouring Iraq.



Schoolchildren check information on HIV/AIDS put on display by Red Crescent volunteers

Additionally, the greater part of the Turkish Red Crescent resources have been diverted to assisting victims of the devastating earthquake in south-eastern region of the country. As a result, ongoing projects have suffered delays. The possibility of a huge influx of refugees into Turkey has decreased and the Turkish Red Crescent presence at the border areas has now been scaled down allowing the national society to return to non-emergency activities.

Disaster Management

Goal: The Turkish Red Crescent is able to respond effectively to disasters and reduce their impact on vulnerable communities.

Objective: The disaster preparedness, response and mitigation capacities of the Turkish Red Crescent are built at the central and branch levels, in compliance with the characteristics of a well-functioning national society and its strategic plan.

Progress/Achievements: There are six projects under the disaster management programme. These projects are:

- Emergency and post disaster response;
- Disaster preparedness;
- Community-based disaster preparedness and non-structural mitigation;
- Construction;
- Psycho-social support; and
- Water and sanitation.

Emergency and post disaster response

Over the last three months, the Red Crescent Society of Turkey has been engaged in extensive preparations to respond quickly to the potentially enormous humanitarian needs caused by possible mass population movements across the border with **Iraq**. The National Society had originally braced itself to provide immediate shelter and other emergency requirements to an estimated 80,000 refugees.



Turkish Red Crescent staff and volunteers discuss preparations for a possible influx of refugees from Iraq

The Turkish Red Crescent was appointed by the Government to coordinate and run the humanitarian operation in Turkey on behalf of the Turkish Government. The national society, supported by the Federation, quickly developed effective contingency plans to establish refugee camps in the border areas and provide services – health and care, water and sanitation, the distribution of non-food and food items - for target beneficiaries. The Turkish Red Crescent immediately deployed some 400 staff in Diyarbakir, Silopi and Gaziantep, in the south-east of the country to support six camps with accommodation, psycho-social help and relief items from its disaster preparedness stocks.

Within weeks, tents, blankets, mattresses and kitchen sets enough to help 50,000 beneficiaries were pre-positioned to the border areas. 59 vehicles were on standby. In addition, 16 mobile kitchens, with the capacity to cook 2,500 meals per hour were deployed to Silopi, a town close to the Iraqi border, together with two mobile hospitals. The Turkish Red Crescent also provided multi-purpose tents for schools, mosques and other social activities to meet community needs.

A significant part of the contingency planning was intensified coordination with other humanitarian actors in the country to ensure that humanitarian support is delivered effectively. A number of coordination meetings were held with operational partners such as UNHRC, WFP, other UN agencies, and NGOs to avoid duplication and ensure that resources are deployed where most required. The Turkish Red Crescent, in cooperation with the Federation and UNHCR, conducted a four-day seminar for deputy governors, high level representatives of the different government agencies at headquarters, programme officers of the relevant UN and other international agencies. The purpose and objectives of the workshop were to establish common understanding on roles and mandates of international organizations and agencies; orient the camp managers on international laws and standards in respect of refugee/asylum seekers. Kizilay played an important facilitation role during the seminar.

Turkish Red Crescent was rapid and efficient in its response to the **earthquake in Bingol** rushing relief materials there, including: tents and blankets, five tonnes of food, nine mobile kitchens (to serve 20,000 people a day), a field hospital with 50 beds and a mobile clinic, four ambulances and five generators. A team of 25 volunteers from Mus and Erzincan Branches was immediately deployed to the earthquake area to carry out search and rescue operations. Shortly after the earthquake, Turkish Red Crescent volunteers were on the disaster site providing water and food to the victims. Some 2,000 people were assisted and 1,000 food parcels were distributed on the first day. The affected families were also provided with 700 hygiene and 400 baby food parcels from the Turkish Red Crescent emergency

stocks. The National Society distributed over 3,000 pieces of clothing to families in need. Psychosocial emergency response efforts of Turkish Red Crescent were initiated immediately starting from the first day of the earthquake with four professional personnel from the national society supported by two additional professional personnel from the Federation. Kizilay's psychosocial efforts involved:

- initial assessment,
- distribution of brochures that included information about psychosocial effects of disasters to survivors and other beneficiaries, who were contacted in the regions where Kizilay food distributions took place.
- distribution of brochures that included information about psychosocial effects of working in disaster relief operations and ways of helping each other to cope with them to search and rescue workers, Kizilay staff and staff of the Bingol State Hospital as well as other workers.
- giving psychosocial first aid to the affected population, especially children, who have been rescued from the ruins of the school; identifying individuals who need further support and referring them to the professional organisations and institutions that are giving psychosocial support in the region.

Disaster preparedness

The Turkish Red Crescent has established a working group to develop the overall Disaster Management strategic plan of the national society. Within the framework of the strategic plan, the draft criteria for the selection of the eight zone disaster response and logistics centres have been developed and submitted to the executive committee for their comments and approval.

Efforts continue to strengthen the Turkish Red Crescent disaster management capacities at the Branch level. With the support of the British Red Cross, the Turkish Red Crescent organised a three day meeting on regional disaster management plan. Chairpersons of 15 branches took part.

Community-based disaster preparedness and non-structural mitigation

A staff member of the Turkish Red Crescent attended a training of trainers on vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) to be able to carry out the training on VCA for colleagues at the national society and help the Turkish Red Crescent launch effective community-based programmes responsive to local vulnerability.

Construction

70 per cent of the construction works on Mental Treatment and Rehabilitation Center in Yalova have been completed. Preparations are well underway for a Safe Building Workshop due to take place in September 2003. The workshop is organised jointly by the Federation, Turkish Red Crescent, Istanbul Governors Office and Istanbul Municipality. It aims to promote safety awareness in construction by demonstrating improved retrofitting techniques on one of the municipal buildings.



Training in psychosocial support was a crucial element of preparations over Iraq

Psycho-social support

Integration of psychosocial component within Kizilay's overall disaster management system was facilitated by board approval of psychosocial as a component of disaster response and branch development. Kizilay contracted a psychosocial coordinator and six psychosocial

officers for deployment as a part of their response to Iraq. This structure was implemented as a key component of Kizilay service delivery in the Bingöl earthquake response. Turkish Red Crescent supported by the Federation developed a matrix identifying training needs, resources, and a schedule by priority. A comprehensive psychosocial emergency response manual was completed which includes training modules, brochures, data forms and implementation plan. A total of 189 Kizilay employees received training in psychosocial methodology. The Bingöl response increased Kizilay capacity in the provision of psychosocial services as reflected in the following matrix:

Bingöl psycho-social Activities	Total
Needs assessment (contacts)	39
Psychosocial information dissemination (beneficiary)	3,302
Psychosocial information dissemination (workers)	1,011
Psychosocial contact (beneficiary)	427
Psychosocial contact (worker)	400
Psychosocial support (beneficiary)	122
Psychosocial support (worker)	101
Psychosocial orientation	80
Training (number of participates)	78

The transition is now taking place for moving back to a community-based approach of integration of psychosocial into Kizilay branch development with a new memorandum of understanding.

Water and sanitation

Turkish Red Crescent preparedness efforts for Iraq crisis, as well as response to the earthquake in Bingöl were carried out in line with the humanitarian charter and minimum standards in disaster response. The Federation is planning to hold further training for the Turkish Red Crescent staff and volunteers on Sphere requirements to ensure the national society is capable of immediate and qualified response to water and sanitation needs in emergencies.

Impact: Disaster management is a priority area for assistance to the Turkish Red Crescent and considerable efforts are made by the Federation in this direction. The national society has demonstrated a high degree of professionalism in its contingency planning for Iraq crisis and response to the Bingöl earthquake. While the focus was the emergency relief effort, the operation provided valuable learning and growth opportunities for the Red Crescent Society in Turkey. Capacities of people at the national society have strengthened as management was exposed to new operational methods, requiring rapid decision-making and intense multi-actor coordination. Staff and volunteers benefited from on-the-job learning. Lessons learned will be analysed and integrated into ongoing Red Crescent programmes. The establishment of psychosocial as a part of branch development in disaster management within Kizilay represents a major step in capacity building. Acceptance of responsibility by Kizilay for administration and, increasingly, financial commitment will facilitate sustainable programmes.



Turkish Red Crescent volunteers provide first aid training

Constraints: This programme has been overshadowed by the preparations related to Iraq and the earthquake in Bingol. In some ways this was an opportunity for increasing the disaster management capacities of the Turkish Red Crescent. However, limited capacity has slowed progress.

Organisational Development

Goal: Enhanced capacity of the Turkish Red Crescent, ensuring quality service delivery according to its mandate.

Objective: The organisational development efforts of the Turkish Red Crescent are supported in line with the 'characteristics of a well-functioning national society' with the aim of enhancing efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of service delivery at the central and branch level.

Progress/Achievements: The organisational development programme focuses on three main projects. These are:

- Strategic planning implementation support;
- Branch development; and
- Volunteering system development.

Strategic planning implementation

- The strategic plan is being developed through internal consultations and in cooperation with all key stakeholders, including the Federation and the partner national societies based in Turkey. The plan focuses on six priority areas identified by the national society and based on its mission statement, vision and the Red Cross Red Crescent Fundamental Principles: disaster management, health and social services, blood and blood products, branch development, volunteering system development, media and public relations. For each of the priority areas, the Turkish Red Crescent has defined a strategic goal, objectives and expected results. The first draft of the strategic plan is expected to be ready by July 2003. The plan will then be presented to the executive committee of the national society for their review and subsequent approval.
- Red Crescent staff from branches, blood centres and volunteers received training on Project Planning Process in May 2003.

- National Society Governance Guidelines were translated into Turkish. The guidelines will be printed and distributed to branches.

Branch development

The national society has identified branch development as one of the priority working areas in its strategic plan. Its goal is ‘to develop capacities of the Turkish Red Crescent branches to carry out humanitarian programmes effectively by mobilising local resources in accordance with the national society’s mission and vision’.

A number of training sessions were provided by the Turkish Red Crescent for its staff and volunteers in branches to increase their understanding of the Movement and the Fundamental Principles. A total of 93 people attended either basic induction course or training of trainers in Ankara, Erzurum and Trabzon.

The Turkish Red Crescent is developing a branch toolkit with the support of the American Red Cross to strengthen the National Society’s functioning in the context of the International Federation’s ten ‘Characteristics of a Well Functioning National Society’. The toolkit aims to help the National Society develop its capacities in all priority areas identified in the strategic plan, with the focus on public relations, training and volunteer development.

Volunteering system development

Volunteering system development has been identified as one of the priority areas in the Strategic Plan of the Turkish Red Crescent. Its goal is ‘to develop an effective system to recruit, manage and retain volunteers’.

The Turkish Red Crescent has developed a first draft of the volunteering policy. Work is ongoing on the volunteer management handbook, which will be an integral part of the branch toolkit.

Impact: The organisational development efforts supported by the Federation aim to enhance efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of service delivery at the central and branch levels.



Project planning process training for the Kizilay

It is difficult to assess the impact at this stage, although a significant progress has been made in strategic planning implementation, strengthening capacities of Turkish Red Crescent branches and volunteering system development. The Turkish Red Crescent adopted a participatory process to develop a three year Strategic Plan in order to achieve its Vision and Mission in collaboration with its partners. This will strengthen the sense of ownership at all levels of the Society leading to its effective implementation. Through training, Red Crescent staff and volunteers have a better understanding of volunteerism in service delivery to vulnerable people at grassroots level. The induction courses help the Turkish Red Crescent staff and volunteers understand better the Movement, its components, history and mandate, vision and priorities. Branch toolkits will help the Turkish Red Crescent strengthen its capacities to deliver better services to target beneficiaries.

Constraints: The organisational development initiatives were slow to get started in Turkey predominantly due to the Society’s workload with regard to emergency operations – preparedness for massive influx of refugees from Iraq and emergency response to the earthquake in Bingol. The workload of the Turkish Red Crescent was increased meaning all projected activities could not be implemented.

Federation Coordination

Goal: The various long-term programme inputs from the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement for the capacity building efforts of the Turkish Red Crescent are in accordance with the Strategy 2010 and with the priorities of the Turkish Red Crescent.

Objective: The coordination among partners of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement was consolidated and thereby the Federation's various resources were best utilized in the interest of the Turkish Red Crescent Society.

Progress/Achievements: The Turkish Red Crescent Society and Federation work in partnership with their sister organisation, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), as well as government authorities and United Nations agencies as part of a co-ordinated effort to confront the humanitarian challenges in the country. Coordination meetings between the Turkish Red Crescent, partner national societies and the Federation's delegation have been conducted regularly, ensuring constant exchange of information on planning, implantation of the projects and programmes, sharing knowledge and analysis of situations with partners. At present there are three partner national societies in Turkey – American, British and Italian Red Cross Societies. They are implementing various bilateral programmes with the Turkish Red Crescent, mainly related to branch development and disaster preparedness. The programmes are in line with the agreements of the partnership meeting held in 2000.

Effective cooperation and coordination with all Red Cross Red Crescent partners in the country continues. Every step of developing the strategic plan of the Turkish Red Crescent is taken in cooperation with the partner national societies. Workshops, seminars and training programmes such as induction and project planning were carried out jointly with the Turkish Red Crescent, partner national societies and the Federation.

Impact: Effective coordination with key humanitarian actors results in a common view of what the situation and the needs are in Turkey and deployment of resources where they are necessary.

Constraints: The cooperation agreement strategy (CAS) could not be developed as planned due to delays in finalising the Turkish Red Crescent Strategic Plan.

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