

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

29 October 2003

Appeal No. 01.80/2003

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

Programme Update No. 2;

Period covered: June -September 2003

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.

For more information: www.ifrc.org

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: Operations continue as planned. Appeal is covered enabling smooth implementation of programmes/projects.

Operational developments

The Federation, through its regional delegation in Ankara, continues to assist the Turkish Red Crescent (Kizilay as it is known in Turkish) in strengthening its capacity to support the country's most vulnerable people. The focus is on:

- developing a three year strategic plan,
- strengthening branches, and
- volunteer management system.

In parallel, efforts are made to enhance the Red Crescent's disaster management capacities to respond effectively to emergencies. Government statistics on damage caused by disasters at the end of the last century (see table below) clearly demonstrate the extent of threats and risks this country is exposed to.

Statistics on the extent of damage in Turkey caused by disasters in 1995-1999

(Source: General directorate of disasters affairs of Turkish Government)

Year	Type of Disaster	Number of people		Number of people		Estimated economic damage in USD
		Killed	Injured	Displaced	Affected	
1995	Earthquakes/floods	231	403	2,000	10,000	65 million
1996	Earthquake	0	6	9,000	17,000	30 million
1997	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available	Not available
1998	Earthquakes/floods	155	1,647	128,000	1,500,000	500 million
1999	Earthquake	18,243	48,901	675,000	15,000,000	20 billion

Another major area of the Federation's support is to increase public awareness of HIV/AIDS in Turkey to prevent its spread through peer education and media campaigns.

The Federation's regional delegation also supports the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Information on Federation-supported operations in these countries is subject of separate reports (please see www.ifrc.org).

Health and care

Goal: Awareness of HIV/AIDS in specific target group 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 held regular meetings with other members of the national commission on HIV/AIDS to discuss implementation of the national plan of action.

Within this plan, Turkish Red Crescent continued to raise the awareness of HIV/AIDS related issues among its staff and volunteers, as well as the public at large, through distribution of information materials. 1,000 brochures and posters, printed during the first half of the year, were distributed to the public. Kizilay have started preparing a new set of information materials to be distributed on the World HIV/AIDS Day in December 2003.

Kizilay also trains its staff and volunteers in cooperation with HATAM (Hacettepe AIDS Treatment and Research Centre) and the Federation. Two training of trainers are planned in October-December 2003. The Turkish Red Crescent will also organise a workshop with participation of governmental and non-governmental organisations to discuss education materials Kizilay is planning to publish. The workshop aims to standardise training manuals.

Deputy General Director, responsible for health and social services of the Turkish Red Crescent participated in an annual meeting of the European Red Cross and Red Crescent Network on HIV/AIDS (ERNA) in Latvia to share experience on HIV/AIDS projects.

Impact: The Turkish Red Crescent is one of the major players in the country contributing to increasing the public awareness on HIV/AIDS related issues. The ERNA meeting enabled the Turkish Red Crescent to strengthen cooperation with other National Societies in Europe to fight this disease more effectively.

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. Additionally, the greater part of the Turkish Red Crescent resources have been diverted to assisting victims of the devastating earthquake that shook the south-eastern region of the country in May 2003. As a result, ongoing projects have suffered delays.

Turkish Red Crescent Health and Social Services Department, however, invested lots of efforts to put the project back on track and meet programme objectives by the end of the year.

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;
- Water and sanitation;
- Community-based disaster preparedness and non-structural mitigation;
- Psycho-social support, and
- Construction;

Emergency and post disaster response



Relief activities (such as parcel distributions, left) in earthquake affected areas of southeastern Turkey have now ended. Kızılay volunteers and staff deployed for the operation returned to their branches. The Federation is now assisting the National Society in strengthening its disaster management capacity. Arrangements are made for the procurement of mobile kitchen units and materials for the production of 3,400 tents to enable a timely, efficient and effective response to needs of potential disaster victims. For more information on Red Crescent response operation in Bingol see Turkey: Earthquake in Bingol Province, Programme Update No 3 at www.ifrc.org.

Disaster Preparedness:

The Turkish Red Crescent completed a Well-Prepared National Society Questionnaire. The questionnaire was derived from a simple planning checklist called the Characteristics of a Well Prepared National Society, which identifies critical factors that are important for National Societies in disaster management for both preparedness and response. Based on results of the questionnaire, the Red Crescent developed its disaster management priorities for 2004-2005.

In September, the Turkish Red Crescent conducted specialised training on logistics and needs assessment for 38 staff and volunteers. The Red Crescent is now selecting members for its 10 rapid response teams.

Additionally, the Red Crescent provided training on disaster preparedness and response management for 99 people in Trabzon, Bursa and Erzurum. Participants included Red Crescent staff and volunteers, as well as, representatives of the local authorities.

In cooperation with the Turkish disaster management coordination office, Telecom and private communication equipment suppliers, the Red Crescent conducted a one day seminar in September on communication during disasters. Participants included Red Crescent staff and volunteers, Government authorities, universities and other stakeholders in disaster management.

Water and sanitation

Sphere requirements on water and sanitation in emergencies are included in disaster preparedness and response management training.

Community-based disaster preparedness and non-structural mitigation

On 13 September, the Turkish Red Crescent joined other Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to mark the World First Aid Day and carried out public awareness activities in five major provinces (Ankara, Izmir, Duzce, Bursa and Van) in cooperation with the Civil Defense, Metropolitan Municipality, the Fire Brigade Office, Emergency Medical Association and Med-line. To announce the upcoming activities and spread First Aid messages, two thousand posters were put on the public buses and at gas stations.

The major public event took place in Ankara with thousands of participants gathering in Guven Park at Kızılay square, a popular meeting area in the city centre. The Red Crescent set up a big tent to perform First Aid simulations and to present First Aid equipment, information materials and the promotional items. Other

simulations took place at two central and accessible petrol stations. In Guven park and at the petrol stations, Turkish Red Crescent staff and volunteers distributed First Aid and Road Safety information to the public.

First Aid messages that appeared on the printed materials included '5..4..3..2..1..0..!!! DO YOU KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FIRST 5 MINUTES DURING EMERGENCIES?' and '40 hours-40 lives...YOU CAN SAVE MANY LIVES BY A 40 HOURS TRAINING COURSE' and created an immense interest among the public. As a result, a large number of people have registered to participate in the First Aid training courses.



Showing the way: Red Crescent volunteers demonstrate their first aid skills before an admiring public

The symbolic Human Chain of Help took place at 11am in Guven Park with the participation of Turkish Red Crescent staff, First Aid volunteers and the public.

The day's activities highlighted the importance of First Aid to save lives during disasters and emergency situations. Around 50 staff and 200 volunteers were involved in activities which are estimated to have reached more than 15,000 people.

Psycho-social support

A memorandum of understanding has been signed between the Federation and the Turkish Red Crescent, handing over responsibility for the implementation of the programme, effective September 2003. The Federation will cover the costs of the programme fully until the end of this year, after which they will be split equally until the end of 2004. The Turkish Red Crescent will cover all costs of the project, effective 1 January 2005.

Finances will be transferred to the National Society on a working advance system. A budget for the remaining

months of this year has been elaborated and approved by the Federation. Financial procedures within the Turkish Red Crescent will need to be revised to enable funds to be transferred from the headquarters to branches and back. Initial meetings on the issue have been held.

Following the temporary closure of the project during the time of the Bingol Earthquake and the Iraq crisis, a number of staff resigned. The former psycho-social delegate also left in July to be replaced in August 2003.

As such, the Turkish Red Crescent's psycho-social support project team has started the recruitment procedure to find new staff for branch positions. Project presentations have been made at the Izmir branch and in Istanbul. Interviews were started in Ankara on 30 September.

The revised project will be reopened in two branches of Kizilay which have community centres attached (Kynashli and Duzce), as well as, the Gaziosmanpasa – the GOP branch in Istanbul, together with the west coast branch of Izmir. Focusing on psycho-social support within disaster management, and on capacity building of the communities around the community centres, the project will be integrated with the Red Crescent's disaster preparedness and disaster response teams, and into its ongoing branch development initiative.

The psycho-social team left Bingol mid May. However, in June 2003, they were reunited with some of the children who survived the collapse of a boarding school in Cheltiksuyu. The Red Crescent's psycho-social team spent a day with children listening to their stories and experiences. Through personal contacts, children recover from trauma caused by the earthquake and death of their classmates.

Construction

99 per cent of the construction works on Mental Treatment and Rehabilitation Center in Yalova have been completed. Works are planned to be finalized in November 2003. The centre will specialize on earthquake related traumas and will be the first of this kind in Turkey.

The Federation, together with the appropriate authorities and institutions, organised a 'Seismic Safety of Buildings' workshop in September 2003, to exchange information and practical experiences with government building control officials, consultants, researchers, insurance businesses and others in the professional sphere. Although there seem to be no fail-safe solutions to deal with the earthquakes that routinely strike Turkey, the Federation's aim was to promote the notion of seismic structural stability of buildings and infrastructure and thus better protect vulnerable people in the event of future disasters. Some 400 people participated in the workshop.



Seismic safety: a Federation-supported workshop promotes better building safety.

Impact: The Turkish Red Crescent makes steady progress to strengthen its position as a key humanitarian actor in disaster management to prevent and alleviate suffering of vulnerable communities through effective mitigation, preparedness and response.

Constraints: This programme has been overshadowed by the preparations related to Iraq and the earthquake in Bingöl. In some ways this was an opportunity for increasing the disaster management capacities of the Turkish Red Crescent. However, limited capacity has slowed progress. The programme, however, has been put back on track and efforts are now made to meet objectives.

Recent self-evaluation has revealed that only 20% of Red Crescent staff believes

the national society is ready to respond to large-scale disasters, 53% think the Red Crescent is partly prepared, while 26% consider they are not well-prepared yet. The Red Crescent is committed to continue capacity building via better planning and more integrated approach to disaster management.

Organisational Development

Goal: Capacity of the Turkish Red Crescent is enhanced, 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 Turkish Red Crescent is developing its strategic plan 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 Movement's Fundamental Principles:

- disaster management,
- health and social services,
- blood and blood products,
- branch development,
- volunteering system development,
- media and public relations.

For each, the Turkish Red Crescent defined a strategic goal, objectives and performance indicators.

The overall goal of the Turkish Red Crescent's strategic plan is to develop adequate organizational and service capacity to deliver efficient, effective and sustainable services at central and local levels in accordance with its vision, mission and the Movement's Fundamental Principles.

In September 2003, the Turkish Red Crescent completed the first draft of its strategic plan. Efforts have then been concentrated on how best integrate the strategic goals. The second draft will be presented to the Red Crescent's executive committee in October for their review and subsequent approval.

23 staff and volunteers from the Red Crescent branches and blood centres received training on Project Planning Process in July 2003.

Branch development

The Red Crescent identified branch development as one of the priority 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'.

The Turkish Red Crescent provided a number of training sessions for its staff and volunteers in branches to increase their understanding of the Movement and the Fundamental Principles. In June-September, 79 people attended three induction courses in Izmir, Ankara and Bursa.

The Red Crescent's Branch Directorate recruited two officers for its Branch Development Programme. These officers will be responsible for planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Red Crescent's Branch Development Programme, as well as, related parts of the Strategic Plan. Both attended an induction course and a project planning workshop.

Volunteering system development

Volunteering system development has been identified as another priority area in the Strategic Plan of the Turkish Red Crescent. Its goal is 'to develop an effective system to recruit, manage and retain volunteers and strengthen service-based active volunteerism in the Turkish Red Crescent'.

The Turkish Red Crescent developed a first draft of the volunteering policy. It was distributed to the Red Crescent's directorates for their comments. In the meantime, work continues on the volunteer management handbook and volunteer's handbook.

Impact: The organizational development efforts supported by the Federation aim to enhance efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of the Turkish Red Crescent's service delivery at the central and branch levels.

Organisational development requires a long-term commitment. Although significant progress has been achieved in strategic planning, strengthening capacities of Turkish Red Crescent branches and volunteering system development, it is difficult to assess the impact at this stage. The Turkish Red Crescent adopted a participatory process to develop the three-year Strategic Plan to achieve its vision and mission in cooperation 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. The induction

courses help the Turkish Red Crescent staff and volunteers understand better the Movement, its components, history and mandate, as well as its vision and priorities.

Constraints: The organisational development programme was slowed predominantly due to the Red Crescent's workload with regard to emergency operations – preparedness for massive influx of refugees from Iraq and emergency response to the earthquake in Bingol in the first half of 2003.

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: Effective cooperation with Red Cross and Red Crescent partners continues. Coordination meetings between the Turkish Red Crescent, partner national societies and the Federation's delegation have been held regularly, ensuring constant exchange of the analysis of the situation, planning and implementation. At present there are two partner national societies in Turkey – American and British Red Cross Societies. They are implementing bilateral programmes with the Turkish Red Crescent, mainly related to branch development and disaster preparedness. The Italian Red Cross has completed its mission in Turkey and closed its delegation in July 2003.

The Federation continued assisting the Turkish Red Crescent to strengthen partnerships and improve coordination. Additionally, the Federation Delegation in Turkey, in line with its regional mandate, has been providing technical support to National Societies in the southern Caucasus – Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. In particular, it has been:

- assisting the National Societies to assess humanitarian needs in their countries and develop response strategies for 2004-2005;
- assisting the National Societies to strengthen capacities in disaster management, organisational development, planning and reporting;
- encouraging cooperation, exchange of expertise and knowledge between the national societies; and
- ensuring coordination with the ICRC, partner national societies, Government authorities, UN agencies and other organisations.

In consultation with the National Societies, the regional delegation is drafting a four-year Turkey & Southern Caucasus Regional Strategy. This strategy will spell out future directions of Federation support based on priorities defined by the national societies.

The team in Ankara has expertise in a variety of fields, including disaster preparedness and response, organisational development, financial management, logistics, planning and reporting.

Impact: Effective coordination with key humanitarian actors results in a common view of what the situation and the needs are in Turkey, as well as the region, 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. Key partners will meet in 2004 to review their work and focus within the context of the National Society's strategic plan.

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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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