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Information bulletin

Turkey: Recent Developments of the Population Movement Response

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information Bulletin n° 1 – TRC

9 February 2016

This information bulletin is being published for information only and reflects the information available at this time.

Context and brief history

The five-year conflict in Syria has killed hundreds of thousands of people and ruined the lives of many more by causing internal and external displacement. More than 4.6 million Syrians are currently living in the neighbouring countries, and the crisis has spread over the region, producing further displacement into more safe areas. In Turkey, the number of Syrian people under temporary protection has surpassed 2.5 million; with 275,000 people currently living in camps established by the Turkish Government. Due to the conflict in Syria, the Turkish Red Crescent has been organizing extensive relief activities in and off camps as well as on the border within the scope of the humanitarian relief operation to alleviate the consequences of the Syria crisis.

An IFRC emergency appeal was launched on 9 November 2012 on behalf of the Turkish Red Crescent for CHF 32,311,219 for a period of six months to assist 170,000 people. Revised on 28 May 2013 to reflect the expected growth of the camp population to 225,000 Syrians accommodated in 19 camps, the appeal budget was increased to CHF 44,183,265. On 18 November 2013 a second revision increased the budget to CHF 44.5 million for supporting up to 250,000 people and extended the timeframe of the operation until 30 June 2014. A third revision extended the appeal timeframe until 31 December 2015 and included a component of orientation and psychosocial services in urban areas and support for operational cost. The fourth revision extended the appeal timeframe until 30 June 2016 and had a deeper focus on long-term community support for displaced people and host communities in urban areas, while preserving the TRC's mandate for support in protection camps. A six month operation update will be published in February covering the latest developments in the operation including information on the expected revision of the current operation in terms of increasing the number of community centres operated by the Turkish Red Crescent. Additional needs will be included for the newly arrived displaced people as well as for the people remaining in the camps and urban areas.

The current situation

On 29 and 30 January 2016, due to increasing bombing in Obin and Türkmendağı villages, 5,681 Syrians came to the Güveççi border crossing. For the population to be accommodated, activities to set up a camp with 800 tents are continuing. After the registration process by related government institutions, some of the Syrians have been accommodated in the camp in Güveççi while others have been transferred to camps in other regions.

Since 5 February 2016, heavy shelling in Aleppo has forced thousands of people to flee the area and head towards Kilis close to Turkey's border with Syria. It is estimated that as many as 70,000¹ people could be on the move following days of intense bombing. Currently, up to 35,000 people are waiting on the Syrian side of the border, and the Turkish Red Crescent is providing food and shelter as part of their relief activities.

The fighting in Syria is expected to continue, with intensified ground clashes and airstrikes. The highest concern is a potential siege of opposition-controlled areas, home to an estimated 300,000 people. Therefore, humanitarian needs will increase, and more people will be on the move towards the Turkish border, where the conditions are currently harsh. The number of displaced population in this scenario is likely to surpass 100,000.

¹ [Estimate](#) from Turkey on Feb 6 2016

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Kilis Öncüpınar

In response to the recent surge of Syrian refugees, the Turkish Red Crescent is mobilizing its resources. After getting the information that 70.000 people started coming to the Kilis Öncüpınar border crossing, relief items for thousands of people have been prepared by the Red Crescent including water, blankets, high-energy food and hygiene kits, as described below:

Item	Amount
Water	20,000 litres
Blanket	4,000 units
Energy biscuits	14,560 units
Hygiene set	3,400 units

The Turkish Red Crescent has also mobilized emergency teams, a mobile kitchen, a mobile bakery and supplies for Kilis. The National Society has analysed the situation in coordination with the local authorities and has prepared a budget to take into account the new needs, which will be integrated into the ongoing Emergency Appeal in a forthcoming revision.

Hatay-Güveçci

The Turkish Red Crescent provided one mobile kitchen, one mobile bakery and 16 experts in the area in order to meet the needs of the population that arrived. Apart from meeting the needs with hot meals and bread, the Turkish Red Crescent also provided the following relief items:

Item	Amounts
Tent	350 units
Bed	338 units
Blanket	675 units
Baby formula	100 boxes
Baby biscuits	200 kilograms
Women hygiene set	423 units / 60 packs
Milk	150 kilograms
Pillow and pillow case	338 units
Water	20,000 litres / 60 packs
Toy	5 packs
Electric heater	60 units
Baby diaper	200 packs

Additionally, through the emergency appeal, the Turkish Red Crescent is assisting approximately 275,000 people living in protection camps with emergency items and food. Among its other activities, the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) launched its Community Centre Project to provide vocational trainings and psychosocial support to the Syrian population. There are six active programs as follows: a children's program, an adult programme, referral services, seminars, orientation with host communities and other social services (e.g. art therapy, support to staff, etc.). Currently, there are four active community centres in Sanliurfa, Istanbul, Konya and Ankara, respectively. Community centres are developing projects based on the local needs, implemented with local capacities. In order to increase the skills of Syrians in Turkey, the TRC is aiming to provide livelihood support with several trainings such as carpentry, hairdressing, and shoe-making. In 2016, the TRC will play a more active role in coordinating the work of different non-governmental organizations for the displaced people in different community centres.

In response to the recent developments, the IFRC Regional Office for Europe is in constant contact with the IFRC's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Office in Beirut for sharing of information on the evolving situation and planning for coordinated approaches.

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and peace.
