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Information bulletin Turkey: Earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information Bulletin n° 1 23 October, 2011

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Turkish Red Crescent Society, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.



Rescuing affected people from the rubble of a building. Photo: Reuters

[<click here for detailed contact information>](#)

The situation

At least 70 people were killed and 156 others injured on 23rd October 2011 in Turkey when a magnitude 7.2 earthquake struck at 13.41 (local time), around 12 miles (19km) from the eastern city of Van (Van province).¹ Sixty buildings have collapsed and electricity and telecommunications services have been disrupted in the city of Van and the nearby town of Ercis (Van). Damage to buildings has also occurred in parts of the neighbouring provinces of Bitlis and Hakkari. In addition, difficulties in air traffic have been reported at Van Ferit Melen Airport (VAN, Van province), although the facility remains open, and flight services are continuing. The authorities had previously diverted flights bound for the airport to Erzurum Airport (ERZ, Erzurum province). Several aftershocks have been reported and rescue and relief operations are under way.

Disruption in the utilities, including water, electricity and telecommunications, can be expected in Van Province in the near term. Any further aftershocks, depending on severity, have the potential to exacerbate damage to infrastructure and disruption in travel and essential services, while hampering relief operations. Weakened structures may collapse in the event of aftershocks; personnel could be at risk from falling debris, both inside buildings and on streets. Additionally, the deployment of relief crews to affected areas may

¹ Please see the map of the affected area from USAID in the attachment of this bulletin. <http://reliefweb.int/node/454725>

contribute to localised travel disruption and road restrictions while the crews are attempting to clear the debris.

Turkey is located in an active seismic zone, where large earthquakes occur with relative frequency. In May 2011, at least three people were killed and 70 others injured when a 5.8 magnitude tremor struck the country's north-west.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Following the most recent contact with the Turkish Red Crescent Operational Centre that took place at 21:30 on Sunday, all National Society resources and personnel in the east of the country have been made available for the relief operation led on the spot by the Turkish Red Crescent Society's Director General. The National Society's staff and volunteers are working to reach people trapped in the rubble. Headquarters in Ankara have sent qualified personnel and disaster supplies to the region. Over 2,600 tents, 7,500 blankets, 100 stoves, bread, water, kitchen sets, a mobile bakery and food parcels are on the way or already at the site of the disaster, and a lot more stocks are being mobilised. Soup kitchens have been set up for those who have lost their homes or are unwilling to re-enter them, fearing aftershocks. The blankets and tents will be particularly appreciated as temperatures fall to close to freezing at night. A tent city is being set up in the stadium in Erzurum and blood products are being sent to hospitals in the region.

Witnesses say local people are using their bare hands and torchlight to shift the rubble in a desperate attempt to reach survivors as night falls. Rescue teams have already taken survivors from the rubble of a student dormitory. Turkish Red Crescent and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) are monitoring the situation closely. The International Federation Europe Zone Office has offered its assistance to the Turkish Red Crescent in the areas where it may be required. Several National Societies have also indicated their interest to support the Turkish Red Crescent relief and rescue work. The Turkish Red Crescent will issue more information in the morning and expects to have a full picture of the extent of the damage and the numbers of homeless by early afternoon on 24th October 2011.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Turkey:** Muzaffer Komit, Secretary General, Turkish Red Crescent Society, email: basinyayin@kizilay.org.tr
- **IFRC Zone:** Evgeni Parfenov, Head of Operations, IFRC Europe Zone, +3618884500, email Evgeni.parfenov@ifrc.org
- **In Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Support, phone: +41.22.730.4529, email: christine.south@ifrc.org



Click here

1. Map **[below](#)**
2. Click **[here](#)** to return to the title page

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 Disaster 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.

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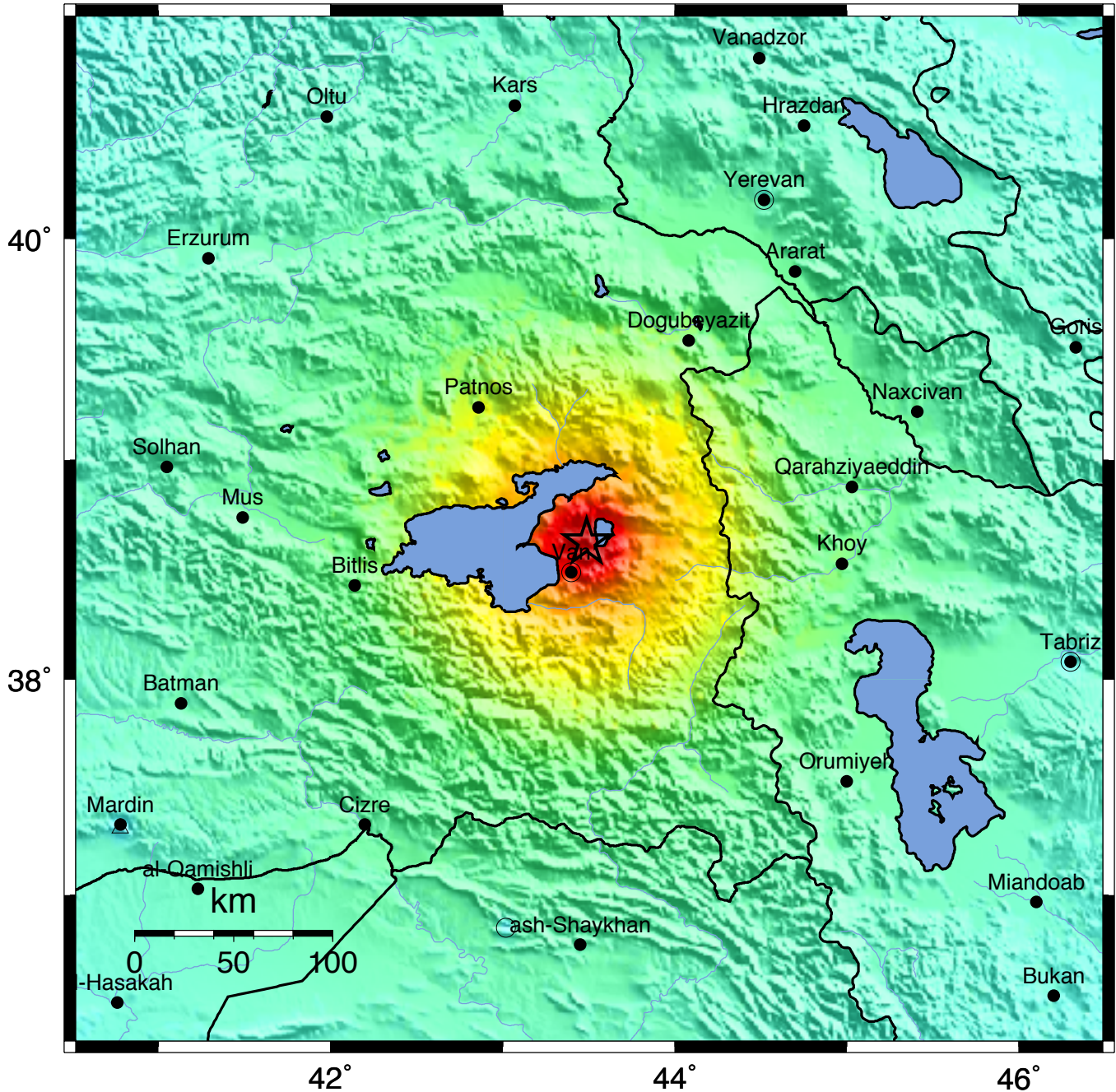


The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
 2. Enable healthy and safe living.
 3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.
-

USGS ShakeMap : EASTERN TURKEY

Sun Oct 23, 2011 10:41:21 GMT M 7.2 N38.63 E43.49 Depth: 20.0km ID:b0006bqc



Map Version 2 Processed Sun Oct 23, 2011 06:08:44 AM MDT -- NOT REVIEWED BY HUMAN

PERCEIVED SHAKING	Not felt	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme
POTENTIAL DAMAGE	none	none	none	Very light	Light	Moderate	Moderate/Heavy	Heavy	Very Heavy
PEAK ACC.(%g)	<.17	.17-1.4	1.4-3.9	3.9-9.2	9.2-18	18-34	34-65	65-124	>124
PEAK VEL.(cm/s)	<0.1	0.1-1.1	1.1-3.4	3.4-8.1	8.1-16	16-31	31-60	60-116	>116
INSTRUMENTAL INTENSITY	I	II-III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X+

M 7.2, EASTERN TURKEY

Origin Time: Sun 2011-10-23 10:41:21 UTC (13:41:21 local)

Location: 38.63°N 43.49°E Depth: 20 km

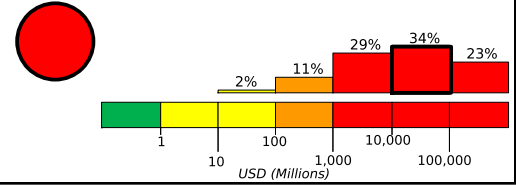
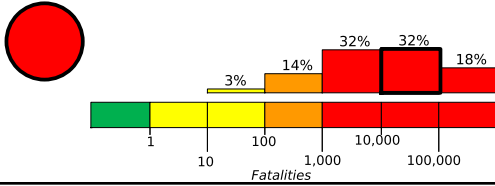
Created: 1 hour, 31 minutes after earthquake

Estimated Fatalities

Red alert for shaking-related fatalities and economic losses. High casualties and extensive damage are probable and the disaster is likely widespread. Past red alerts have required a national or international response.

Estimated Economic Losses

Estimated economic losses are 0-4% GDP of Turkey.

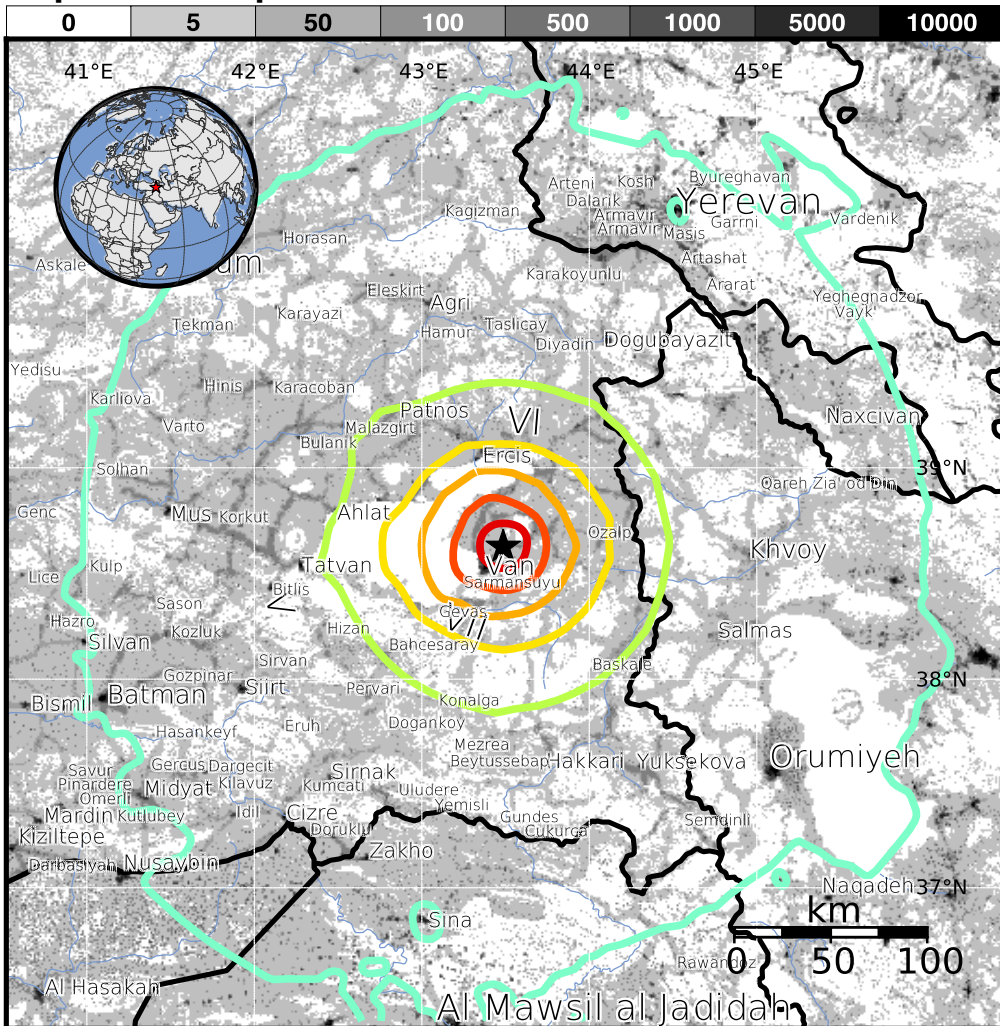


Estimated Population Exposed to Earthquake Shaking

ESTIMATED POPULATION EXPOSURE (k = x1000)	- - *	357*	8,454k*	9,435k	482k	265k	67k	377k	29k	
ESTIMATED MODIFIED MERCALLI INTENSITY	I	II-III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X+	
PERCEIVED SHAKING	Not felt	Weak	Light	Moderate	Strong	Very Strong	Severe	Violent	Extreme	
POTENTIAL DAMAGE	Resistant Structures	none	none	none	V. Light	Light	Moderate	Moderate/Heavy	Heavy	V. Heavy
	Vulnerable Structures	none	none	none	Light	Moderate	Moderate/Heavy	Heavy	V. Heavy	V. Heavy

*Estimated exposure only includes population within the map area.

Population Exposure



Structures:

Overall, the population in this region resides in structures that are a mix of vulnerable and earthquake resistant construction. The predominant vulnerable building types are unreinforced brick masonry and nonductile reinforced concrete frame construction.

Historical Earthquakes (with MMI levels):

Date (UTC)	Dist. (km)	Mag.	Max MMI(#)	Shaking Deaths
1992-03-13	358	6.6	IX(151k)	498
1975-09-06	241	6.7	VIII(1k)	2k
1976-11-24	66	7.0	IX(33k)	4k

Recent earthquakes in this area have caused secondary hazards such as landslides that might have contributed to losses.

Selected City Exposure

from GeoNames.org

MMI City	Population
IX Van	372k
VIII Sarmansuyu	7k
VII Ercis	92k
VII Ozalp	8k
VII Gevas	12k
VI Adilcevaz	53k
V Siirt	114k
V Batman	302k
V Gyumri	148k
IV Erzurum	421k
IV Yerevan	1,093k

bold cities appear on map

(k = x1000)

PAGER content is automatically generated, and only considers losses due to structural damage. Limitations of input data, shaking estimates, and loss models may add uncertainty.

<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/pager>

Event ID: usb0006bqc