
Information Bulletin n° 2

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24 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.

[<click here to view the map of the affected area, or here for detailed contact information>](#)



Turkish Red Crescent Operating Centre. Photo: Turkish Red Crescent

The situation

Reportedly 217 people were killed and 1,090 wounded in Turkey, due to a 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck at 13.41 (local time), around 12 miles (19 km) from the eastern city of Van (Van Province) on 23rd October 2011. 970 buildings have collapsed and electricity and telecommunications services have been disrupted in the city of Van and the nearby town of Erciş (Van). Damage to buildings has also occurred in parts of the neighbouring Bitlis and Hakkari Provinces. In addition, disruption has 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 to the supply of essential services, including water, electricity and telecommunications, can be expected in Van Province in the near term. Since the Van earthquake occurred, over 100 aftershocks followed. 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 the affected areas may contribute to localised travel disruption and road restrictions while they attempt to clear the debris. Turkey is located in an active seismic zone, where large earthquakes occur with relative frequency.

The Turkish Government deployed Urban Search and Rescue Teams (USAR) and Emergency Medical Teams to the disaster affected area from 44 provinces and 37 different organisations by civilian and military airplanes. Three military cargo planes have continuously been transferring personnel and material from Ankara to Van. USAR activities have been going on uninterrupted. 1,584 USAR personnel, 491 medical personnel and 10 USAR dogs are on duty in the field while 68 ambulance cars, 7 ambulance aircraft, 256 construction vehicles are operating for medievac and debris-removal efforts. The Turkish Ministry of Health has deployed 2 field hospitals in Van and Erciş.

According to the press release by the Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management, the President and the Prime Minister have announced that there is no request for international assistance, and bilateral government offers to help have been turned down at this stage.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Turkish Red Crescent, immediately after having been informed of the disaster, established its Crisis Management Desk at the Disaster Management Centre (HQ), and alarmed its regional and local disaster management centres in Northern Anatolia (Erzurum), South-eastern Anatolia (Elazığ), Eastern Anatolia (Muş), and the Mediterranean (Adana). In the aftermath of the earthquake, 5 persons from Elazığ Regional Disaster Management Centre, 2 persons from Muş Disaster Management Centre were dispatched to the Van Province in order to make needs assessment, and additional 3 staff from Erzurum Regional Disaster Management Centre were deployed to the field as early as 14:30.

For the purpose of preliminary damage assessments in the districts and villages closest to the epicentre of the quake, information has been collected through the Turkish Red Crescent Branch presidencies, District Governorates, Gendarmerie Commands, Security Departments in the towns and cities and communicated to the Disaster Management Centre (HQ). The consignment of disaster material, vehicle, equipment and staff primarily from Muş, Elazığ, Erzurum, Adana, Manisa, Ağrı and Van and all other Turkish Red Crescent units were initiated.

Within the scope of the response activities, the Turkish Red Crescent alarmed all of its units all over the country in order to meet the urgent shelter and food needs of the victims. By now, the Turkish Red Crescent deployed 139 staff to the region and 12,891 tents, 25,229 blankets, 3,812 stoves, 2,000 bottled gas, 8 mass sheltering tents, 9 WC containers 1,719 kitchen sets, 21 mobile kitchen, 2 mobile catering vehicle, 1 mobile bakery, 1,064 family food parcel, 27,824 bottled water, 13,075 bread, 425 sleeping bag, 27,575 snacks, 100 tons of various food items were dispatched.

The total of 110 disaster specialists from Ankara, Elazığ, Erzurum, Adana, Muş and Manisa Regional Disaster Management Centres and from all Branch presidencies and 37 vehicles, volunteers and mukhtars, clergies, police forces and teachers within the framework of the project on "Organizing Community Leaders" were posted to disaster region.

To provide temporary shelter for the affected people whose houses were damaged or those who are not able to stay in their houses due to aftershocks, tent camps have been established and the delivery of tents to the affected families on an individual basis has also started. The materials listed in the chart attached were consigned to the region affected by the quake, and their distribution has been going on in accordance with the assessments made by the Turkish Red Crescent teams.

Psychologists and social service specialists were assigned to the disaster affected regions with the aim of providing psycho-social support for the victims who lost their relatives and for those who have experienced post-traumatic stress disorder because of the shock caused by the quake.

The Iranian Red Crescent is mobilising its people for operation in Turkey. According to the Iranian Red Crescent, all their activities are coordinated with the Turkish Red Crescent. In the area, which is affected by the earthquake, a bilateral cooperation between Turkish Red Crescent branches and the Iranian Red Crescent already exists, which helped the Iranian Red Crescent to start quickly with the assistance to Turkish Red Crescent and the affected population. The Iranian Red Crescent is ready to provide support with assessment and relief teams that are located and operational in Van in addition to 3 Iranian Red Crescent teams on standby on the Iranian-Turkish border. The Iranian Red Crescent has brought to the country 300 tents (50 are already distributed and put in place). They have established an operational base at the border of Iran, from where they coordinate the work of their teams in Turkey. The Iranian Red Crescent has so far supplied 1,500 blankets and 2,500 ready-to-eat meals.

The Turkish Red Crescent and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) are monitoring the situation closely. The International Federation's 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.

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
- **IFRC Zone:** Slobodanka Curic, Disaster Management Coordinator, Budapest, phone:+361 8884 510; fax: +36 1 336 1516; email: slobodanka.curic@ifrc.org
- **In Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Support, phone: +41.22.730.4529, email: christine.south@ifrc.org



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2. Click [here](#) for the map of the affected region

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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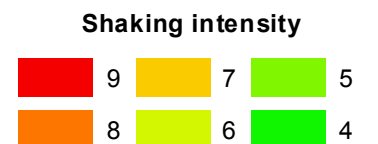
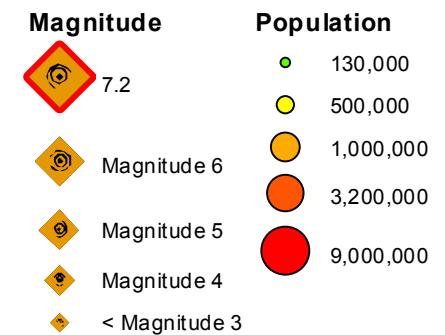
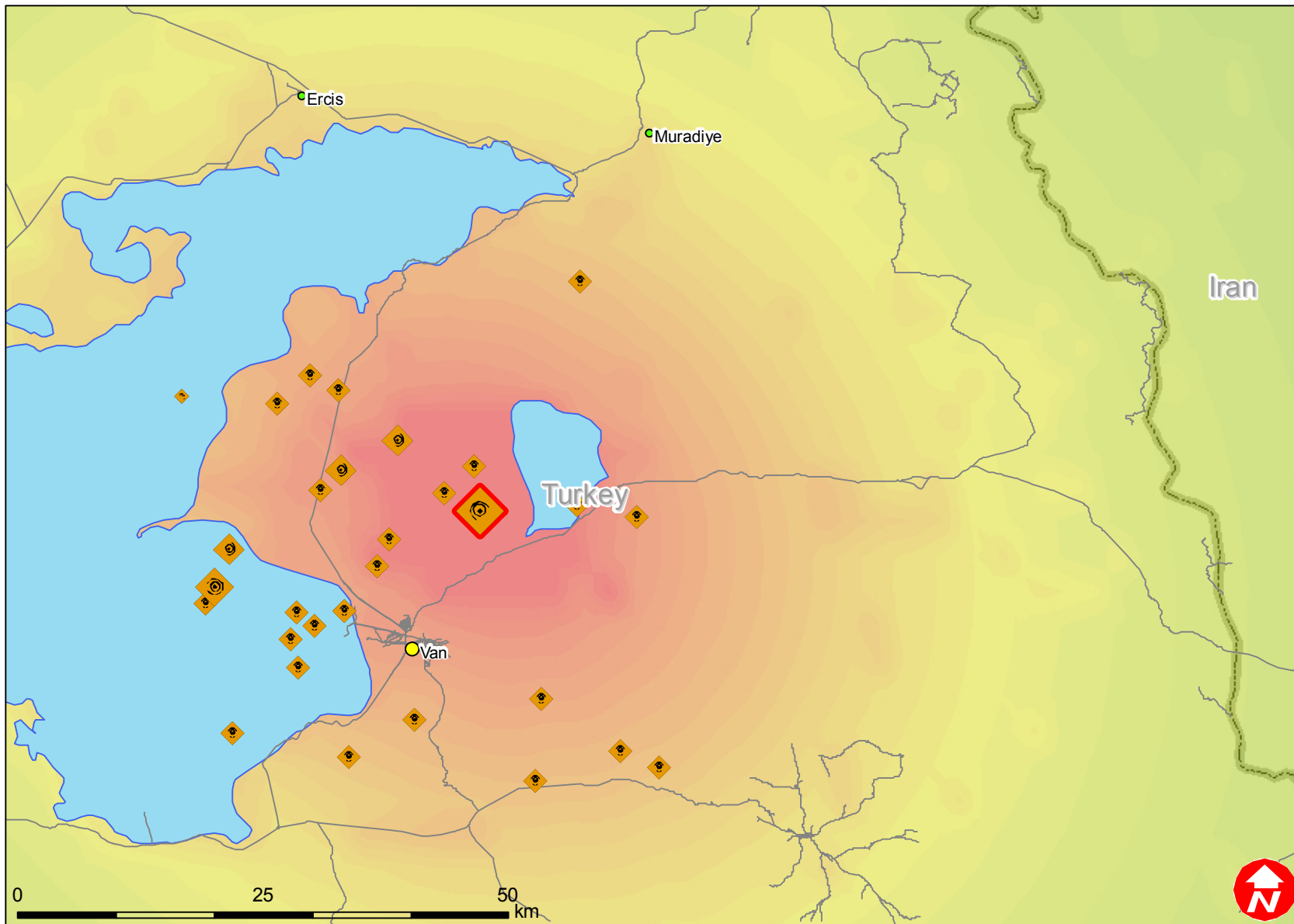


The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

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.
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Turkey: Earthquake



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, DEVINFO, USGS, OSM, International Federation