

TURKEY: EARTHQUAKE

21 September 1999

appeal no. 19/99

situation report no. 16

period covered: 18-21 September

With temperatures in the disaster zone starting to dip, the attention of the government and humanitarian agencies is increasingly focusing on shelter needs for the winter. The provision of winterised tents remains a prime concern, and while the International Federation has more than fulfilled the needs established in the appeal of 8 September 1999, more would be welcome, ideally complete with the necessary support items (heaters, flooring, and bedding) required for full winterisation. Meanwhile, the International Federation is close to leasing warehousing facilities for handling incoming goods provided through the appeal, now almost covered, though a budget revision is under active consideration.

The context

On 17 August at 03h02 local time a massive earthquake measuring between 7.4 and 7.8 on the Richter scale and lasting 45 seconds hit north-western Turkey. Hundreds of aftershocks have since been reported, some exceeding five on the Richter scale. Izmit, an industrial city of one million in western Turkey, was nearest the epicentre. But the force of the tremor was felt as far away as Ankara, the capital, some 500 km to the east, and across parts of the Balkans. Geophysicists described the quake as one of the most powerful this century, nearly rivalling the 7.9 magnitude earthquake that devastated San Francisco in 1906. On the day of the disaster, the Turkish government declared a state of emergency and requested international assistance.

Update

As reported over the weekend by the Prime Minister's Management Crisis Centre, the death toll from the quake is now 15,637, with another 51 bodies recovered in Golchuk in the past two days; the number of reported injured is 24,941. Results from the ongoing infrastructure assessment now reflect the following statistics: 65,385 homes collapsed or heavily damaged, 64,565 with a medium level of damage and 76,452 more lightly damaged; 10,761 businesses collapsed, 9,746 with a medium level of damage, and 9,413 businesses lightly damaged.

The figures in detail are:

Province	Persons Dead	Persons Injured	Houses collapsed/ heavily damaged	Houses with medium levels of damage	Houses with limited damage
Bolu	264	1,165	3,095	4,180	3,303
Bursa	265	372	29	104	401
Eskisehir	86	98	76	47	315
Istanbul	979	3,830	3,073	13,339	12,455
Kocaeli/Izmit	4,093	4,535	18,297	18,989	19,282
Golchuk	4,816	5,214	12,310	7,789	9,299
Sakarya/Adapazari	2,629	5,180	19,043	12,200	18,712
Tekirdag	0	35	NA	NA	NA
Yalova	2,502	4,486	9,462	7,917	12,685
Zonguldak	3	26	NA	NA	NA
TOTALS	15,637	24,941	65,385	64,565	76,452

According to local media reports, the education ministry plans to construct 25 tent education centres in the school-yards to educate children through recreational activities. It was announced that 25 new tents, each with a capacity of 300 persons, had arrived from the US; five will be sent to Golchuk, eight to Kocaeli/Izmit eight to Sakarya/Adapazari, two to Duzce, one to Golyaka and one to Yalova. Furthermore, 50 barracks, which are planned for construction by the Education Volunteers' Foundation, will be made available to schools. In addition to the prefabricated houses due to be erected by the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, a number of prefabricated schools will also be constructed.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Turkish Red Crescent Society w

The Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS) has expanded its scholarship and supplementary aid programme for primary, secondary, and high school students in the earthquake region. The programme is intended to ensure that no students in the earthquake area will drop out of the school system because of financial need. Students in need can obtain a verification of their status from their local authority crisis desk and their application to the TRCS will be handled as fast as possible.

Health w

Norwegian Red Cross: All of the expatriate team for the Norwegian emergency response unit (ERU) field hospital have left Turkey as of yesterday (Monday). Turkish medical staff have taken charge of the field hospital, and will be in regular communication with the International Federation's medical coordinator. The equipment handed over includes: 14 tents of varying sizes, 100 beds, operating theatres and electrical equipment. Two office tents from the hospital will be donated to the local TRCS branch to be used by the management of the nearby tent settlement and for other relief activities in the Izmit area.

Japanese Red Cross: The Society's medical team departed Turkey yesterday (20 September). During the period 23 August - 16 September, the team treated some 1,347 patients - around half were surgical cases or required gynaecological attention. Many of the admissions for injury occurred in the days following the quake as people searched the rubble looking for their belongings. There were also cases of pregnant women who had jumped from the upper floors of their homes during aftershocks.

Water & Sanitation w

An International Federation water and sanitation delegate (on loan from Albania/Formal Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) has begun assessments of toilet and waste management systems in TRCS tent settlements. Preliminary recommendations for water treatment and storage facilities have been made for the Emirdaq tent settlement near Adapazari. The Austrian Red Cross ERU team is planning to provide training. The settlement, home for 7,000 people, is projected to grow to 13,000.

Austrian Red Cross: The Austrian Red Cross water plant is now running close to capacity, from early morning to late in the evening. The demand for the ERU produced water is increasing since it provides the only distributed water in Golchuk with a chlorine-level suitable for drinking. For the 9-15 September period, the unit produced around one million litres of water at an average of 200,000 litres per day. Local workers have been hired and are being trained to run the unit. Seven Oxfam tanks have been installed in the Adapazari area by the team to serve more remote areas, and more are planned. Five replacement members for the team arrived in Turkey yesterday; eight members of the original team, deployed on 23 August, will be leaving shortly.

Logistics w

The International Federation delegation is close to reaching agreement with a local supplier for the provision of dedicated warehousing facilities, complete with personnel, lifting equipment and computer technology. Revised shipping instructions will be ready for inclusion in the next situation report.

Outstanding needs

The relief table (annex 2) has been updated to reflect further donor pledges and also a requirement to outfit an additional 4,000 winterised tents with heaters, flooring and bedding. Local procurement is expected to begin shortly and cash donations to facilitate this activity would be helpful. In the meantime, at least 30,000 baby parcels, 12,000 hygiene parcels and tents/blankets for the TRCS disaster preparedness stock remain outstanding. In addition to the current complement, more winterised tents would also be welcome, ideally complete with the supporting items (heaters, flooring, and bedding) required to provide adequate shelter during the winter months. Food provision, particularly for the projected camp population, remain high on the agenda for resolution. With shelter and winterisation needs set to rise from the planning figures shown in the appeal, a budget revision is under active consideration.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

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