

TURKEY: EARTHQUAKE

01 October 1999

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period covered: 29 September - 01 October 1999

Shelter needs for the coming winter remain high on the agenda and the first deliveries of Red Cross/Red Crescent winterised tents are due to arrive in Turkey early next week. Meanwhile, consolidation of the tented settlements in the disaster zone is continuing as the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS) readies itself to manage all the camps. The International Federation's Secretary General arrives in Ankara Monday for a three-day mission to Turkey, including high-level meetings with the Turkish government and TRCS leadership and a visit to the earthquake affected areas.

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

According to local media reports, at 03h13 on Wednesday, 29 September, a further aftershock occurred near the epicentre of the original quake on 17 August, measuring 4.8 on the Richer scale. It was also felt in Istanbul, where one woman panicked, jumped from her balcony and died; at least 55 people were injured. The German Red Cross hospital in Golchuk reported no additional cases of earthquake related injuries. Hundreds of people in Istanbul spent the rest of the night sleeping outdoors. During the same day there were 15 aftershocks recorded by the Kandilli Observatory Centre, ranging from 2.5 to 4.8 in magnitude.

As reported by the Prime Minister's Crisis Co-ordination Centre (PMCCC), the death toll from last month's quake is now 15,802, and the number of injured is 43,872. The latest data from the assessments of damage to homes comprises: 66,441 collapsed or heavily damaged, 67,242 with medium levels of damage and a further 80,160 are lightly damaged. In terms of commercial buildings, ongoing surveys show: 10,901 collapsed, 9,927 with medium levels of damage, while 9,712 are less seriously damaged.

Temporary shelter: The Housing and Public Works Ministry has announced plans to build 26,325 prefabricated homes; lots have been allocated for 26 communities throughout the disaster zone.

According to official figures released this week, the total number of tents in the earthquake affected area stands at 112,445, including 39,359 donated from abroad and 25,403 provided by individuals and businesses in Turkey. Not all of these tents are yet occupied as some of the tent cities are under construction. To date, there has been no separate count of winterised tents, although the vast majority of tents presently in Turkey are not winterised. Currently, 120,726 people are living in some 120 tented camps and occupying 28,286 tents; consolidation of the smaller tent settlements into larger tent cities continues; in Izmit, for instance, the present number of 33 camps will be reduced to seven. Meanwhile, there are thousands more people still living in tents set up nearby their damaged homes and apartment buildings. In an effort to reduce the number of people forced to live in tents over the coming winter, the government has announced provision of rent subsidies for earthquake victims.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Medical w

The Ministry of Health is managing the recruitment of Turkish health professionals to work in the field hospital in Golchuk, managed by the German Red Cross Emergency Response Unit. The first teams have started working with the expatriate medical staff. There are on average 55 Turkish staff and 27 expatriate staff. The nearby state hospital is providing services for psychologically traumatised patients. For the week of 20-26 September, 965 out-patients and a daily average of 38 inpatients were treated, including 174 cases of respiratory infections, and 141 instances of physical/psychological trauma. A German Red Cross team is preparing to assess the health needs in rural and out-lying areas of the earthquake region.

Tent cities w

To date, according to its records, the Turkish Red Crescent Society has distributed 44,488 emergency tents since the quake struck. Charged by the government with the management of all consolidated tent cities during the coming winter, the Society is planning to provide winterised tents to all occupants of these sites.

Six of the larger and more established tent cities managed by TRCS are in Emirdag (near Adapazari), Ataturk Arastirma (Yalova), Derince/Yenikent (Izmit), Yukari Degirmendere, Ihsaniye (Golchuk) and Uzun Ciftlik (Kocaeli). An estimated population of 21,200 people occupy some 6,700 tents in these tent cities and residents in each are receiving three hot meals per day. A survey of these camps recently identified the required facilities, now being put in place and shown below:

TRCS Tent City	Location	Population	Tents	Toilets	Showers
Emirdag	Adapazari	7,000	1,968	180	65
Ataturk Arastirma	Yalova	6,400	2,200	148	50
Derince/Yenikent	Izmit	3,000	950	40	32
Yukari	Degirmendere	1,800	860	30	6
Ihsaniye	Golchuk	700	180	10	3
Uzun Ciftlik	Kocaeli	2,300	550	55	8

Meanwhile, the first shipments of 14,000 winterised tents (4,000 more than the planning figure in the Appeal), donated by Red Cross Societies in Germany, Japan and the Netherlands, are due to begin arriving early next week. The planned delivery schedule for Red Cross/Red Crescent winterised tents, is as follows:

Planned delivery date*	Number of tents to be delivered	Cumulative total
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7 October	1,285	1,735
8 October	785	2,520
12 October	550	3,070
17 October	1,000	4,070
18 October	286	4,356
20 October	500	4,856
22 October	1,000	5,856
25 October	286	6,142
1 November	1,572	7,714
6 November	1,286	9,000
10 November	1,000	10,000**
14 November	1,000	11,000
18 November	1,000	12,000
24 November	1,000	13,000
28 November	1,000	14,000

* Subject to transportation constraints

** Planning figure for appeal

Outstanding needs

Please see relief table in Annex 2. While the full complement of delegates is almost in place, the International Federation is still seeking at least one more experienced field delegate. Participating National Societies are also asked to fulfil cash pledges by the due date, since some heavy expenditures (for winterised tents and water-sanitation equipment) must be settled in the coming weeks.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

Visit of Secretary General: The International Federation's Secretary General, accompanied by the Director of the Europe Department, is due to arrive in Ankara on Monday for high level meetings with the Turkish government and the TRCS. He will also travel to Istanbul and visit Red Cross/Red Crescent activities in the earthquake zone, including sessions with beneficiaries, TRCS volunteers and staff and local authorities.

Media: Over the past week, International Federation information delegates have been interviewed by the Associated Press, Istanbul; the Turkish Daily News; National Public Radio from the U.S. An Associated Press documentary crew for the *Roving Report* programme, shown in 50 countries, was accompanied to the field. Also, the Head of Delegation was interviewed on 1 October by the Istanbul bureau of CNN.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

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