

# ***TURKEY: EARTHQUAKE***

*14 October 1999*

*appeal no. 19/99*

*situation report no. 21*

*period covered: 08 - 14 October 1999*

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*The Turkish Red Crescent Society President resigned on 7 October and an interim president has been appointed until confirmation by the Executive Board at the Society's general assembly in April next year. Meanwhile, the Society continues to feed more than 60,000 earthquake victims each day and the winterised tent pipeline is now building to full momentum. A campaign to raise sufficient funds for 10,000 baby parcels is underway in Poland.*

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## ***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. The International Federation immediately launched a preliminary appeal, followed by a full appeal for CHF 65 million on 8 September 1999.

## ***Update***

As reported over the weekend by the Prime Minister's Crisis Centre (PMCC), the death toll from the quake is now 15,845, with another 25 bodies recovered in the past week; the number of reported injured stands at 43,953. Several large aftershocks have caused additional structural damage. Results from the ongoing infrastructure assessment now reflect the following statistics: 66,441 homes collapsed or heavily damaged, 67,242 with a medium level of damage and 80,160 partly damaged; 10,901 businesses collapsed, 9,927 with a medium level of damage, and 9,712 businesses partly damaged.

According to local media reports, schools have opened in Golchuk and in Sakarya, areas that sustained the heaviest damage from the 17 August quake. As most of the school buildings in Golchuk are collapsed or considered unfit for use, students will attend classes in the 75 tents erected near the southern part of the E-310 highway. Psychological counselling for the students will be a priority. Golchuk authorities still do not have accurate counts of the student population, as many were killed while others moved away from the area. Also, 200 replacement teachers which were to be transferred to Golchuk from other regions, have yet to report for duty. Schools in Sakarya province have begun the year with about 60,000 students returning to the classroom.

## Red Cross/Red Crescent action

### Turkish Red Crescent Society w

The Turkish Red Crescent Society's President, Kemal Demir, resigned on 7 October and Professor Yuksel Bozer will serve as interim president, until confirmation by the Executive Board at the Society's general assembly next April. Professor Bozer was a member of the TRCS' central committee and is the former dean of Hacettepe State University in Ankara.

### Relief and logistics w

Since the beginning of the emergency, the TRCS has dispatched 67,776 tents, 156,720 blankets, 9,900 sleeping bags and other basic relief items to the affected population. The pipeline for winterised tents, set down in Situation Report no. 19 (issued on 1 October), is building momentum and a steady flow of these items is being dispatched from the Red Cross/Red Crescent Samandira warehouse to tent cities in the earthquake affected area. To date, almost 1,000 winterised tents donated by Participating National Societies (PNS) have reached TRCS tent cities, with hundreds more en route. The current status of the pipeline is as follows:

| Week commencing | Number of tents to be delivered* | Cumulative total** |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 4 October       | 735                              | 735                |
| 11 October      | 1,600                            | 2,335              |
| 18 October      | 1,850                            | 4,185              |
| 25 October      | 1,675                            | 5,860              |
| 1 November      | 2,825                            | 8,685              |
| 8 November      | 2,815                            | 11,500             |
| 15 November     | 2,500                            | 14,000             |

\* Subject to transportation constraints

\*\* Excludes a further 1,500 tents to be procured locally

Deliveries: Recent relief items donated in response to the Federation's appeal include:

| Relief item       | Donor          | Quantity delivered |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Hygiene parcels   | British RC     | 16,896             |
| Winter tents      | German RC      | 897                |
| Winter tents      | Netherlands RC | 285                |
| Blankets          | Japanese RC    | 25,978             |
| Shower containers | German RC      | 14                 |
| Toilet containers | German RC      | 20                 |
| Mattresses        | Belgian RC     | 3,400              |

Food: The TRCS provides hot meals three times daily to 60,000 people living in tent cities and other areas in the earthquake region. A total of 687 tonnes of food have been provided to earthquake victims as of 11 October.

|           | Distributed (kg) | Field kitchens (portable) | Field kitchens (mobile) | Field kitchens (fixed) |
|-----------|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Adapazari | 185,000          | 18                        | 1                       | 1                      |

|          |         |    |    |    |
|----------|---------|----|----|----|
| Izmit    | 154,000 | 21 | 1  | -- |
| Bolu     | 16,000  | -- | -- | -- |
| Golchuk  | 241,000 | 20 | -- | 1  |
| Istanbul | --      | 1  | -- | -- |
| Totals   | 687,000 | 72 | 4  | 2  |

*Local procurement:* A sourcing and costing exercise - targeted at procuring locally as many as possible of the items identified in the International Federation's Appeal - is nearing completion. As a result of this further analysis, it is likely that the heating system supplied for the winterised tents will be gas-based and not kerosene fuelled as originally envisaged.

### **Shelter w**

Although the PMCC has announced plans for the present total of 120 tent cities to be consolidated and then managed by TRCS, the scope of management is expected to vary depending on existing systems. The settlement at Emirdag, near Adapazari - home for over 5,000 people - is one of eight tent cities currently managed by the TRCS, supported by a staff of 200, including teachers and aid workers. The construction of the main water and sanitation infrastructure is managed by government authorities while security is provided by the military. Administratively, Emirdag is broken into eleven sections, each with an elected leader and six assistants. The eleven section leaders meet regularly and are an important communication channel to residents.

What were muddy pathways in late August are now paved roads with gravelled walkways and preparations for the forthcoming winter are well underway. Tents which are fabricated to withstand cold weather have been set up in various sections of the settlement and the lighter-weight emergency tents have been removed. Emirdag also serves as the administrative and warehouse centre for the TRCS relief operation in Sakarya province.

Residents receive hot meals three times a day, dispensed from mobile kitchens, while fresh bread and other food items are distributed from trucks. As families receive blankets, clothing, cooking fuel, hygiene parcels and other relief items, a TRCS staff member records receipt of these items.

Next week, school sessions begin for 950 children; 300 will attend school in a prefabricated building donated by the Etak Corporation, others will attend classes in UNICEF tents. There are two clinic facilities provided by the Spanish Red Cross, now staffed by eleven Turkish medical staff, seven of whom are TRCS doctors and nurses.

### **International Federation w**

The International Federation's delegation comprises a senior management team of three persons and delegates covering finance, logistics, information, reporting, telecommunications, health (including psycho-social), relief/field, and water-sanitation; 14 local staff and eight drivers are supporting the delegation. A Red Cross/Red Crescent warehouse has been leased in Samandira, a suburb of Istanbul, and logistics systems have been established.

### **Participating National Societies w**

Since the onset of the disaster, eleven national societies have operated emergency or medical programmes in Turkey and a further twelve have sent representatives for assessment or transport of relief aid, working under the umbrella of the International Federation, in co-operation with the TRCS. More than 40 National Societies - around one quarter of the International Federation's total membership - have dispatched donations of relief supplies and equipment. At present, seven national societies are conducting programmes or have assigned representatives to Turkey:

*American Red Cross:* The American Red Cross representative is working with the International Federation and TRCS on the planning and implementation of a wide range of programmes including water-sanitation, disaster preparedness and associated activities. The Society carried out a family linking telecommunications service in the first three weeks of the emergency and supported a rapid health assessment survey.

*Austrian Red Cross:* Responding to a request from the International Federation, the Society placed an Emergency Response Unit (ERU) in Turkey to provide potable water and sanitation services to five established tent cities in the Golchuk area, also covering the city of Golchuk itself. Trucks from the municipality and surrounding villages have been receiving and then distributing water from 31 August. Three water tanks were erected in Adapazari on 11 September and the water distributed from the unit is being delivered to Degimendere. Oxfam has donated much needed equipment to Turkey (tanks, tapstands, sanitation material), while two technicians from the agency are working with the Austrian Red Cross team, undertaking assessments and building distribution systems.

*Belgium Red Cross:* One expatriate co-ordinator is working at a tent city in Sarayli (Golchuk). A Belgian Red Cross medical team recently handed over a portable clinic facility (two tents) to Turkish medical personnel.

*French Red Cross:* A representative and a field co-ordinator from the French Red Cross are in Turkey implementing several projects, including the reconstruction of a school destroyed by the earthquake, a mobile dispensary providing medical and psycho-social support, and provision of basic relief items (blankets, cooking sets, gas stoves) to homeless living outside of organised tent cities.

*German Red Cross:* An ERU field hospital arrived on 21 August and was operational within two days, near Golchuk. The facility includes 80 beds, providing out-patient care, surgery, paediatrics and obstetrics. The hospital has x-ray and other diagnostic equipment, an isolation ward, drug dispensary and two ambulances and also serves as support to the Turkish medical system in the affected area. It is staffed by 40 Turkish doctors and nurses, while the expatriate team includes 25 expatriate medical professionals and other staff.

*Netherlands Red Cross:* A delegate is in Turkey to oversee an assistance programme which includes shelter and relief items (2,000 tents, portable beds, mattresses, bed-linen and blankets). The tents are being produced at the rate of 500 per week and are all due for delivery by mid-November.

*Spanish Red Cross:* A basic health unit with 40 beds was fully operational on 29 August, located at two accessible areas of the Emirdag camp near Adapazari. The unit serves as a back-up to the affected areas of the Turkish medical system, and has all the necessary equipment for basic medical treatment and preventative health assistance. The 10-member expatriate team of doctors, nurses, technicians and co-ordinators have handed over the operations to six Turkish doctors and seven nurses. The clinic has provided medical care to 8,000 people. Presently, a Spanish Red Cross representative is identifying additional programmes and an administrator is organising programme logistics.

### **Water and Sanitation w**

Following an assessment earlier this month, the International Federation's water and sanitation programme will focus initially on the eight existing TRCS tent cities, starting with Emirdag near Adpazari. After an agreement is reached with local municipal authorities to construct the main water and sewer pipelines, the International Federation will then provide the connections to the internal camp systems. Once this basic infrastructure is complete, the plan is to provide toilet containers and septic tanks; insulated showers with hot water; tap-stands; laundry facilities; improvement of drainage systems; improvement of garbage collection and disposal systems.

Between the period of 1-8 October, the Austrian Red Cross ERU water production provided on average of 133,000 litres of water per day, down 22% from the previous week. The water supply is decreasing

because there are fewer trucks coming to load water as the main water systems have been repaired to about 80% pre-quake capacity. The ERU is expected to end operations in mid-November. The current team will leave 18 October and be replaced with a third and final team.

### **Medical w**

Weekly medical co-ordination meetings, chaired by the Red Cross/Red Crescent and attended by local Ministry of Health (MoH) representatives and hospital directors are now taking place on Wednesdays in Yalova, Thursdays in Izmit, and Fridays in Adapazari.

The Federation's Health Co-ordinator and the TRCS' Health Officer travelled to Ankara this week to meet with officials from the MoH and the TRCS health department. The MoH has a plan to construct earthquake resistant hospitals and health centres in the earthquake affected areas. The long-term plan is to build small hospitals (maximum 150-200 beds) distributed through the earthquake area, at an estimated cost of about USD 600 million.

The MoH has recognised the need for long-term managers in the health facilities in the earthquake affected areas. Rotation of doctors will be six months in the future instead of the present two to three weeks. Medical staff now have permission to move out from the earthquake affected areas if they wish, as there are sufficient replacement staff identified from eastern Turkey. The MoH agreed to share their health priority list with the International Federation and TRCS when it is available. Representatives from both organisations have been invited to a disaster health management workshop which will be held in Ankara later this month.

## ***Outstanding needs***

See relief table, Annex 2.

## ***External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media***

The Federation's Head of Delegation and Deputy Head of Delegation (Operations) participated in a meeting with the TRCS Vice President, the TRCS Director General and the governor of Izmit province on Saturday (09 October) to discuss the overall situation and relief needs.

The International Federation information delegate accompanied a journalist from the London newspaper *The Independent* to the TRCS tent city in Adapazari and the Spanish Red Cross clinic.

The Polish Red Cross, in partnership with the global advertising agency Saatchi and Saatchi, has launched a national fund raising campaign, targeted at supplying 10,000 baby parcels requested in the International Federation's appeal. Each branch of the Society is being asked to collect sufficient cash for 215 baby parcels. Using its contacts and influence, Saatchi and Saatchi has obtained free advertising space and TV spots across a range of national media, while promotional post cards are being printed and distributed for free in 600 locations throughout the country. The campaign culminates later this month with the display of a huge illuminated Red Cross/Red Crescent emblem on one of the tallest buildings in downtown Warsaw.

## ***Contributions***

See Annex 1 for details.

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