

22 October 1999

TURKEY: EARTHQUAKE

appeal no. 19/99

situation report no. 22

period covered: 15 - 21 October

The Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS) is now managing 18 tent cities and providing hot meals and other services in 69 others. The Society is preparing a plan for computerisation of all its seven warehouses, and the set-up of integrated radio and telecommunication systems. The plan is the first step in developing an improved disaster preparedness programme. An increasing flow of relief items is being dispatched to earthquake victims in response to the International Federation's appeal. PNS will be providing much needed bed capacity in prefabricated buildings for three hospitals in the earthquake affected area.

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

There was a moderate earthquake at 02h10 yesterday (Thursday), centred near Istanbul. In scenes reminiscent of significant recent aftershocks, terrified residents left their homes and spent the night outdoors. According to the Prime Minister's Crisis Centre (PMCC), the death toll from the quake (of 17 August) is now 17,127, and the number of reported injured stands at 43,953. There have been 5,189 buildings cleared away and 2,329 buildings demolished.

Meanwhile, local media reports quote a senior government official in the disaster area as saying there are now 126,325 people living in tent cities and the process of erecting winter tents is underway. Some 2,700 winter tents are already installed and another 40,000 ordered by the government from other countries including Russia and Pakistan. The government has also promised to erect 32,000 prefabricated houses by the end of November, but has had difficulty securing enough land. Only 6,400 prefabricated homes have been built with several hundred families moving in. None of the homes have been earmarked for the thousands who lost their jobs because of the earthquake and have since been evicted from their homes. During a special ceremony on 17 October, attended by the Turkish president and prime minister, 316 families moved into prefabricated houses in Korfez in Kocaeli province.

The local media also reports that 10,000 automatic teller machine (ATM) cards have been issued for homeless families in the earthquake area, enabling the receipt of a monthly rent subsidy of 100 million Turkish lira (US\$ 210). Apparently, some 150,000 families qualify for the subsidy.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Turkish Red Crescent Society w

Tent Cities: To date, 18 tent cities with 39,470 inhabitants are being managed by the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS). Residents of another 69 tent cities receive hot meals and some other services from the Society. Currently, TRCS is distributing hot meals to 79,093 people living in tent cities and another 18,737 people living in tents near their damaged homes. The situation in the settlements is in continual flux, with people moving in and out as other housing options become available.

The conditions in tent cities vary, with improvements being carried out around the clock. During a visit to some of the TRCS tent cities earlier this week, International Federation field liaison delegates observed 312 winter tents from Russia installed in the camp at Emirdag near Adapazari and land being prepared for another 700 winter tents due for delivery. Gas heaters were being distributed in Emirdag and the camp at Ciflikkoy in Yalova, where the days have been chilly and rainy, with temperatures dipping to five degrees.

At the Uzun Ciftlik tent city in Izmit, TRCS staff have been assisting a Greek NGO in the distribution of ECHO donated baby parcels. Uzun Ciftlik is home to about 4,000 people and most are living in light-weight tents covered with plastic sheeting, though 39 families have been allocated more comfortable domed tent structures known as yurts, from Kyrgyzstan.

At Derince Yenikent in Izmit, land is being graded and gravelled in preparation for winter tents and wood for flooring has arrived. TRCS staff prepare hot meals for the 1,000 residents and some 1,750 people living in nearby small tent cities and, on the day of the visit, were also distributing food parcels and hygiene items. Nearby, staff from the crisis centre were dispensing plastic chairs to tent city residents.

TRCS Tent City Management Cities

Food Provided by TRCS in Tent

City area	Number of tent cities	Persons in tent cities	Number of tent cities	Persons in tent cities	Persons living outside tent cities
Adapazari	2	8'324	32	24'197	--
Yalova	5	8'377	8	12'577	4'423

Golchuk	9	18'069	20	30'619	14'314
Izmit	2	4'700	9	11,700	--
Totals	18	39'470	69	79'093	18'737

Disaster preparedness programme: TRCS is preparing a plan for computerisation of all its seven warehouses, and the establishment of integrated radio and telecommunication systems. The plan is the first step in developing an improved disaster preparedness programme, funded primarily by the American Red Cross through the International Federation.

Relief and logistics w

According to the latest estimates of temporary shelter needs, some 210,000 people made homeless by the earthquake are living under canvas - up to 130,000 in tent cities and further 80,000 in ad hoc settlements near their homes. It is expected that 30,000 of those living in tent cities will move out in the coming weeks and accept the government rent subsidy.

The following table reflects the receipt of relief items in response to the International Federation's appeal (12-21 October):

Relief item	Donor (NS or Government)	Quantity delivered
Hygiene parcels	Britain	25'344
Winter tents	Germany	1,123
Winter tents	Netherlands	285
Winter tents	Japan	450
Blankets	Japan	31,682
Storage tents	Sweden	40
Rubb halls	Britain	20
Shower containers	Germany	18
Mattresses	Belgium	3,400
Wheel chairs	Denmark	11
Medicaments	Germany	30 pallets
Medical materials	Germany	51 pallets
Field beds	Germany	2,700
Toilet containers	<i>Denmark</i>	10
Shower containers	<i>Denmark</i>	10
Clothes	Austria	1,948 boxes

Water and Sanitation w

The Federation water-sanitation delegate has identified 26 locations for toilet containers and 38 for shower containers. Many more sites are being evaluated. The ground work and infrastructure will be prepared by the appropriate municipal authorities before the containers are dispatched in coordination with TRCS. Some urgent needs have already been covered including pipe systems in Yenikoy camp and six tapstands, set up by the Austrian Red Cross emergency response unit, which has also assisted in identifying a location for a mass water unit for Emirdag camp.

Health w

Primary health services are now functioning in almost the same number of facilities as before the earthquake, with 87% of the services operating inside a building and only 13% in tents. The Turkish Ministry of Health (MoH) has quickly rehabilitated the services through its network of health centres and health posts.

There are 17 hospitals in the earthquake affected area, which had 2,784 beds before the 17 August earthquake. Now there are 864 beds or 31% of capacity; eight hospitals have the same bed capacity as before the earthquake while eight are running at substantially reduced capacity. Meanwhile, Yalova State hospital has no bed capacity and is referring patients to Bursa province, a distance of 80 km's. At Kocaeli Social Security Hospital, the Norwegian Red Cross field hospital, now staffed by Turkish doctors and nurses, provides 90 beds, only 20% of the previous 450 bed capacity. The Japanese Red Cross will be assisting Kocaeli University hospital, through the provision of prefabricated buildings to bring the capacity to 61%; the American Red Cross is planning similar assistance for the Izmit State Hospital, again through the International Federation.

Health stations have been set up in 22 tent cities. A TRCS health officer will be working with the International Federation health delegate to evaluate the facilities in the camps, in close coordination with the MoH. A World Health Organisation reporting form will be used to monitor infectious diseases.

Participating National Societies w

Spanish Red Cross: A coordinator delegate and logistics delegate have been monitoring the basic health unit located in the Emirdag tent city, and working to improve conditions for the team of Turkish doctors and nurses by providing a heating system and improving communication and coordination with the MoH.

Austrian Red Cross: Between the period of 9-16 October, the Austrian Red Cross ERU water production facility provided on average of 137,000 litres of water per day, over a million litres for the week. The unit had been working at diminished capacity of about 100,000 litres per day; but when demolition activity in nearby Golchuk damaged the main water system, the water supply was rapidly increased to 243,000 litres to cover the emergency. The damaged mains are being repaired. The Austrian team has also erected six bladder tanks with a 1,500 litre capacity in Adapazari. The water produced by the ERU for the tent cities is being tested regularly and there has been no significant biological or chemical contamination. The team has also tested water from the municipal systems being used at tent cities. Minor contamination was discovered at two camps and removed through the application of highly concentrated chlorinated water. The water supplied from the lake for Degirmendere and Ihsaniye tent cities needs higher chlorinating since the ground water is not suitable for drinking. The results of these tests have been reported to the municipal water works.

Outstanding needs

See relief table (annex 2)

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

In recent days. the International Federation information delegate has briefed *The Independent, Le Monde, L'Humanite, BBC* and FLT News Agency (Sweden).

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

For further information please contact the following: International Federation, Geneva: Charles Eldred-Evans; tel: +41 22 730 4535; mobile: 41 79 217 3363; email: eldred@ifrc.org Logistics: Birgitte Stalder-Olsen; tel: +41 22 730 424

Peter Rees-Gildea
Director
Operations Funding and Reporting Department

Bjorn Eder
Director
Europe Department