

TURKEY: EARTHQUAKE

05 November 1999

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period covered: 29 October - 04 November

After assessments and discussions with representatives of local medical groups, International Federation health delegates have proposed a programme of physiotherapy for earthquake victims and the winterisation of the Norwegian Red Cross field hospital used to support services of the Kocaeli Social Insurance Hospital. Some 5,225 MT of relief items were received in October at the Red Cross Red Crescent Samandira warehouse and the movement of goods to the field has been stepped up in recent days. Talks on the future of the operation have proceeded positively in Geneva this week.

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. 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.

The official death toll from the quake is 17,127, and the number of reported injured stands at 43,953, as reported by the Prime Minister's Crisis Centre. Government damage assessments have found 214,000 homes and 30,500 businesses damaged, of which 66,400 homes and 10,900 businesses collapsed during the quake and subsequent aftershocks.

Update

According to local media reports, the government is planning the construction next year of some 60,000 permanent dwellings in addition to the 26,000 prefabricated houses that will be established in the earthquake areas by the end of November. Bidding will open in two months for the construction to start in March 2000 and take about one year to complete. Officials at the public works ministry report that each building will cost about \$21,000; the overall programme, budgeted at \$2.1 billion, will be funded by loans from abroad. Reports from officials in the earthquake zone indicate that seven companies have been clearing away the debris of 7,533 collapsed or condemned buildings, with more than half the task completed to date. The remaining rubble should be removed in 15 days.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Logistics and Relief w

Some 5,225 MT of relief consignments were received in October at the Red Cross Red Crescent Samandira warehouse in the Asian area of Istanbul, though dispatches to the tent cities during the month amounted to less than 10 per cent of this figure (456 MT), due to operational constraints. However, officials from the International Federation delegation and TRCS are taking steps to speed up the movement of items and a significant number of requisitions have been made this week

Relief item	Donor (NS or Government)	Quantity Received	Quantity dispatched	Dispatched to tent cities in:
Hygiene parcels	Britain	80,256	22,019	Adapazari, Golchuk, Izmit, Yalova
Hygiene parcels	Denmark	195	-	
Winter tents	Germany	1,997	1,322	Adapazari, Golchuk, Izmit, Yalova
Winter tents	Netherlands	565	-	
Winter tents	Japan	950	400	Izmit, Golchuk
Winter tents	Denmark	980	-	
Winter tents	Spain	115	115	Adapazari
Storage tents	Sweden	40	40	Izmit
Rubb halls	Britain	8	-	
Blankets	Japan	31,502	-	
Blankets	Denmark	6,346	-	
Field beds	Germany	2,700	2,600	Izmit, Golchuk, Yalova
Folding beds	Netherlands	2,000	-	
Mattresses (cartons)	Belgium	438	-	
Mattresses	Denmark	1,098	-	
Mattresses	Netherlands	5,000	-	
Shower containers	Germany	20	20	Golchuk, Izmit, Yalova
Shower containers	Denmark	10	10	Adapazari
Toilet containers	Denmark	10	10	Golchuk
Wheel chairs	Denmark	11	-	
Medicaments	Germany	30 pallets	-	
Medical materials	Germany	51 pallets	-	
Kitchen sets	Denmark	610	-	
Nike Clothes etc	Austria	1,948 boxes	-	

Goods and equipment received into the warehouse for this week (30 October through 2 November) are as follows: 29,568 hygiene/baby parcels (British Red Cross), 275 winter tents, 4,692 mattresses and 6,941 folding beds (Netherlands Red Cross) and 150 winter tents (American Red Cross).

Water and Sanitation w

The following water and sanitation equipment was dispatched to tent cities in the earthquake affected area during October:

Municipality	Tent Cities	Water/Sanitation equipment delivered
Golchuk	Ford Otosan, Yenikoy	50 taps, 820 metres of pipe
Golchuk	Sirinkoy, Gozlemepe	4 tapstands
Golchuk	Cumhurriet, Degirmendere	2 tapstands, 4 shower containers, 6 toilet containers
Golchuk	Ihsaniye Football Field	9 shower containers, 4 toilet containers
Golchuk	Gozlemepe	12 water heaters
Yalova	Tigem	2 shower containers
Izmit	Uzunciftlik, Sapanca	2 shower containers
Adapazari	Emirdag	10 shower containers
Adapazari	Sedat Peker	3 tapstands
Adapazari	Philip Morris/Sabancı	6 washing machines

Health w

The International Federation health delegate and TRCS health coordinator attended a three-day health services emergency management meeting in Ankara, where representatives of the Ministry of Health, Turkish Medical Association, Turkish Psychological Association, WHO and others reviewed the details of emergency response to the earthquake, in particular: crisis management, psychological health, situation assessment surveys, equipment and training. Preliminary recommendations highlighted the need for disaster response planning, the provision of seismic resistant hospital facilities, legal matters and risk analysis. A follow-up meeting for further discussions and planning will take place in the coming months.

After assessments and discussions with representatives of local medical groups, International Federation health delegates have proposed two additional programmes:

Physiotherapy for earthquake victims: The most common medical problems following the earthquake have been spinal cord injuries, amputations of arms and legs, peripheral nerve lesions and bone fractures. There is an urgent need to help an estimated 4,000 persons with these types of injuries. At present many physiotherapy patients need to be referred to Istanbul, about 50 km. away from the earthquake affected area. The proposal, budgeted at CHF 2.8 million calls for the provision of specialised equipment and six expatriate physiotherapists to work in Turkey for one year. The equipment will be set up for the physiotherapy programmes in five hospitals: Marmara University Hospital (Istanbul), Haydarpaşa Hospital (Istanbul), Istanbul Physiotherapy Hospital, Golchuk State Hospital, and 70-Year Istanbul Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation Centre. In addition, a 40-bed pre-fabricated, winterised rehabilitation centre will be built at Marmara University. This centre will also provide rehabilitation services to 50-60 patients in its out-patient clinic.

Winterisation of the Norwegian Red Cross field hospital: The buildings of the Social Insurance Hospital of Kocaeli (SSK Kocaeli) were severely damaged by the earthquake. In order to support patient care, a field hospital was supplied by Norwegian Red Cross five days after the earthquake. In mid-September, the Norwegian team handed over 73 beds in the field hospital to the SSK Kocaeli (17 are used by Kocaeli University Hospital). Winterisation of the field hospital is necessary to secure the operations of the hospital. The estimated cost for the needed six 6x20 sq. metre prefab (aluminium-plastic) structures which will be erected inside a portable warehouse to act as operation theatres and auxiliary heating systems is around CHF 70,000.

In addition a comprehensive health surveillance system in the tented cities is underway, initiated by the International Federation's health delegate. A Turkish-speaking consultant, assigned by the International Federation, is currently in Turkey to advise on the design and implementation of a psycho-social programme. Meanwhile, meetings are taking place with the management of the Kocaeli university hospital on the provision of a prefabricated unit, funded by the Japanese Red Cross through the International Federation; a construction consultant, assigned by the British Red Cross, is advising the delegation on technical matters associated with a number projects intended to provide additional facilities for health institutions, including an American Red Cross funded proposal for the Izmit state hospital.

Participating National Societies w

Since the onset of the disaster, 15 national societies have operated emergency or medical programmes in Turkey and a further eight have sent representatives for assessment or transport of relief aid, working under the umbrella of the International Federation, in cooperation with the TRCS. Forty-five National Societies - around one quarter of the International Federation's total membership - have dispatched donations of relief supplies and equipment. At present, eight national societies are conducting programmes or have assigned representatives to Turkey:

American Red Cross: The American Red Cross (ARC) representative is working with the International Federation and TRCS on the planning and implementation of a wide range of programmes, including water-sanitation, hospital building rehabilitation, disaster preparedness, and associated activities. Through the Federation health programme, the ARC is providing funds to construct a building for 140 beds and four operating theatres for the Izmit State Hospital. The hospital was devastated by the earthquake and provides service to the poorest segment of the population and receives patients from Golchuk and Adapazari. Dedicated doctors are currently using the lobby as an operating theatre for emergency surgery. ARC is also providing CHF 1.8 million for water and sanitation equipment for tent cities, including shower and toilet containers and water services. The planning work for a disaster preparedness programme continues with TRCS. ARC will be replenishing the stocks of emergency supplies and providing computers for disaster relief planning. An additional 1,500 winterised tents, procured in Turkey, are designated for earthquake victims living in the Golchuk area. The dome shaped design and insulation was selected in consultation with the TRCS.

Austrian Red Cross: The Society placed an emergency response unit (ERU) in Turkey to provide potable water and sanitation services to five tent cities in the Golchuk area, also covering the city of Golchuk itself. Trucks from the municipality and surrounding villages have been receiving and distributing water from 31 August through 31 October. Also, water storage tanks were erected in Adapazari. The team is leaving Turkey this week and handing over some of the equipment to the TRCS.

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

French Red Cross: The society's co-ordinator has begun the implementation of a six-month programme of medical, social assistance and direct relief for those earthquake victims who have set up makeshift shelters near their damaged homes. Under the planned programme, a mobile team with four Turkish members (doctor, psychologist, nurse and social assistant), together with a French Red Cross logistician, will be based in Akyazi in Sakarya province, and operate throughout the affected area providing medical care and counselling. Subject to funding, a warehoused stock of blankets, cooking sets and camping gas will be available for 1,000 families.

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. It is staffed by 40 Turkish doctors and nurses, while the expatriate team includes 25 expatriate medical professionals and other staff. Hospital operations will be transferred to pre-fabricated facilities due to arrive in mid-November.

Italian Red Cross: A coordinator and logistics delegate are implementing an ECHO-funded programme to distribute 50,000 hygiene parcels to 10,000 families over five months. The parcels will be assembled in Turkey and warehousing in Izmit. Each parcel will contain: washing powder, toilet paper, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, disposable razors, sanitary napkins, and bath towels.

Netherlands Red Cross: A delegate is in Turkey to oversee an ECHO-funded assistance programme which includes shelter and relief items (2,000 tents, portable beds, mattresses, bed-linen, blankets and clothes). Five tent cities with a population of 4,200 have been identified to receive the relief items. A senior official from the Society's headquarters has been in Turkey this week, reviewing the operation.

Spanish Red Cross: The Society set up a basic health unit with 40 beds on 29 August, located at two accessible areas of the Emirdag camp near Adapazari. The expatriate team of doctors, nurses, technicians handed over the operations to six Turkish doctors and seven nurses. The clinic has provided medical care to 15,000 people. The Society is working with TRCS and the Ministry of Health to redeploy the health unit in another location with more urgent needs. Presently, the Spanish Red Cross representative is identifying additional programmes focused on the social needs of earthquake victims living in prefabricated communities.

Future of the operation w

Talks between the TRCS leadership and senior International Federation officials, including the Turkey head of delegation, have proceeded positively in Geneva this week, against the back-drop of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. Issues covered have included the proposed TRCS food programme for some 100,000 beneficiaries, which will go ahead (subject to funding) and Red Cross Red Crescent actions following the delivery of a consignment of defective winterised tents. The priorities and time-scale of the ongoing relief programme were also discussed coupled with the possibility that a more extended rehabilitation/reconstruction component than envisaged in the current appeal may be necessary. It has been agreed that the International Federation's head of delegation will be relocated to Ankara shortly and may be joined by other delegation functions as the need arises. A donor's meeting in Ankara, hosted by the TRCS, has been provisionally slated for the new year.

Outstanding needs

See revised relief table (annex 2)

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

Negative coverage of TRCS continues to appear in the local press, but invariably without the inclusion of any balancing comment or rebuttal from the Society. Meanwhile, earlier this week, the International Federation information delegate briefed a correspondent from the London-based *Observer* newspaper.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

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