

# ***TURKEY: EARTHQUAKE***

*12 November 1999*

*appeal no. 19/99*

*situation report no. 25*

*period covered: 05 - 11 November*

---

*More than 315 MT of relief items have been despatched from the Red Cross Red Crescent Samandira warehouse to the field during the first ten days of November, and the movement of goods to the field continues to increase. Following talks on the future of the operation in Geneva last week, the Head of the International Federation's Delegation in Turkey has established a base in Ankara to strengthen further communication and liaison with the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS) leadership. An earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter scale struck north western Turkey yesterday (Thursday) causing yet more uncertainty for the population of the disaster zone.*

---

## ***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 remains at over 17,100 while the number of injured stands at some 44,000, 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***

An earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter scale struck north west Turkey in the late afternoon of yesterday (Thursday), centred on Adapazari; latest reports indicate one death (heart attack) and an estimated 150-200 people injured. Seismic activity has been a regular occurrence since the earthquake of 17 August and this incident was the second notable event in the disaster zone over the past week, adding to the stress of an already-traumatized population. Meanwhile, approximately 10,000 prefabricated houses are assembled in the disaster zone with a further 15,000 under construction. The authorities are continuing to work at establishing functioning electricity and water supply systems.

## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent action***

### **Turkish Red Crescent Society w**

The extraordinary general assembly of the Turkish Red Crescent, originally set for 13 November has been postponed until 21 November. On 6 November, the Society's interim President and entire executive board resigned, but will continue to carry out their functions until elections on 21 November.

### **Logistics and Relief w**

As indicated in last week's situation report, the flow of goods to the field from the Red Cross Red Crescent warehouse in Samandira, near Istanbul, has increased significantly and during the first ten days of November, some 316 MT of relief items - almost the total for the whole of October - have been despatched, including 17,600 baby hygiene parcels, 10,000 family hygiene parcels, 1,004 mattresses, eight mobile warehouses, 30,000 blankets, 980 tents and 754 beds.

The International Federation's field liaison delegates have established a base in Izmit and are now fully operational in the affected area, visiting camps on a daily basis and advancing arrangements for the distribution of relief items to the needy.

According to official sources, some 40,000 people have left the earthquake area in search of a safe haven in northern Turkey. On Thursday, 11 November, the International Federation's relief and health coordinators conducted an assessment mission in the Kandira region, by the Black Sea, and will make a report and recommendations covering food, shelter, health and water-sanitation assistance.

Meanwhile procurement procedures for the local purchase of food, tents and other relief items are almost complete, and bids from competing suppliers will be considered in the coming days. The TRCS has verbally requested the supply of dry food commodities sufficient for 50,000 people for one month.

Procurement of new winter clothing for 100,000 people is underway, though distribution modalities have yet to be finalised. A study undertaken by the Netherlands Red Cross for its own winter clothing project contains some useful demographic information.

Good progress has been made over the past week with plans to provide semi-permanent structures for the Kocaeli University hospital (funded by the Japanese Red Cross) and the Izmit State hospital (with support from the American Red Cross). The International Federation's construction consultant, assigned by the British Red Cross, has completed a one week evaluation mission, which included a detailed technical and financial evaluation of these two projects. The consultant also looked into the potential for an expanded Red Cross Red Crescent rehabilitation/reconstruction programme for damaged community buildings, with particular emphasis on the health, education and social welfare sectors. His report is due in mid-November and it is likely that the International Federation will seek to assign a construction delegate shortly.

### **Water and Sanitation w**

An Austrian technician will arrive in Turkey this weekend to supervise the installation and utilisation of the four Oxfam water tanks for the Emirdag tent city, near Adapazari.

### **Health w**

The International Federation's psycho-social support programme consultant has concluded a two-week mission to Turkey and will present her conclusions verbally in Geneva on Friday, 12 November. The consultant, who is fluent in Turkish, had close contacts with the Turkish Psychological Society and social workers from the governmental Institute of Child Protection which is active in the disaster area. Preliminary conclusions suggest that the most affected persons are already being supported, but prevention activities should be put in place for survivors living in the tent cities. Care for care-givers,

often quake victims themselves, activities in schools and training of trainers could be part of a future TRCS/International Federation psycho-social support programme.

The International Federation health delegate continued her visits and meetings with health personnel working in the tent cities to build up a comprehensive health surveillance system in the tent cities, while the health coordinator is conducting a new assessment on needs for hospital repairs following requests from the representatives of various Red Cross Red Crescent Societies present in the field.

### **Participating National Societies w**

*American Red Cross:* The Society has reaffirmed its support for a dedicated nationwide communications system, linking all emergency components of the TRCS network, within the framework of the disaster preparedness programme (DPP) envisaged in the International Federation's appeal. Related to current plans, American Red Cross funded DPP delegates will join the Federation's delegation next year. The Society is also supporting the Federation's water and sanitation programme and has assisted directly with the purchase of 1,500 locally procured tents for the Golchuk area.

*Austrian Red Cross:* The Society's water-sanitation emergency response unit (ERU) has concluded its mission after providing potable water and sanitation services to five tent cities in the Golchuk area since the early days of the disaster, also covering the city of Golchuk itself. Part of the ERU's equipment remains with the Federation for use in the affected area.

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

*French Red Cross:* The National Society's desk officer for Turkey is currently conducting a short visit to Turkey. The Society has opened a field office in the TRCS premises in Akyazi where most of their activities are concentrated. A six-month programme of medical, social assistance and direct relief for earthquake victims in camps or for those who have set up makeshift shelters near their damaged homes is envisaged. Under the planned programme, a mobile team with four Turkish members (doctor, psychologist, nurse and social assistant), together with a French Red Cross (FRC) logistician, will be based in Akyazi in Sakarya province, and operate throughout the affected area providing medical care and counselling. Subject to funding, a stock of blankets, cooking sets and camping gas will be available for 1,000 families. Next week, the FRC will distribute 1,000 blankets to these families through the TRCS network. In addition, the FRC will equip a nursery in Akyazi; the municipality has provided the building which initially will offer activity space for 60 children aged 0 to 4.

*German Red Cross:* Besides supporting Federation programmes specified in the appeal - including the provision of an ERU hospital - the Society is developing a series of associated initiatives, identified and agreed upon with local authorities in the affected area, though still to be finalised with the TRCS leadership in Ankara. Under current plans, a German Red Cross (GRC) psycho social programme will commence shortly, aimed at implementing an activity related community based programme in the tented cities in Golchuk. A psycho social delegate has been identified and a tripartite agreement is being under preparation for signature by a Turkish grassroots organisation, the TRCS and the GRC. There will be full consultation with the delegation to ensure the planned programme complements the International Federation's PSP activity.

Working through the International Federation, the GRC is also planning to provide prefabricated units to house a physiotherapeutic training unit at the Marmara University in Istanbul and a similar installation at the city hospital in Golchuk. Some equipment will be supplied to these training centres and the GRC will send an expert from the medical University of Hanover to carry out an assessment of training needs. Other plans include the installation of semi-permanent prefabricated constructions to replace two dispensaries in Dongel and Merkez and three schools in the Golchuk area, as well as a project to distribute food to three nearby villages.

*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 warehoused 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 representative is in Turkey to oversee the assistance programmes which cover shelter and relief items including 2,000 tents, portable beds, mattresses, bed-linens, blankets, and clothes and shoes. Part of the Netherlands Red Cross assistance programme - the distribution of winter clothes and shoes - is ECHO funded. Five tent cities with a population of 4,200 have been identified to receive the relief items.

*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, and 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 re-deploy 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.

#### **International Federation delegation w**

The Federation's Head of Delegation has met with TRCS leadership in Ankara this week establishing a base in the capital to further develop and strengthen ties with the Society's headquarters.

## ***Outstanding needs***

An updated and revised relief table will accompany next week's report.

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

The information delegate is designing a programme aimed at increasing the TRCS capacity of responding to media requests and strengthening its communication network, with the ultimate goal of restoring and improving the public image of the National Society, which has suffered from adverse media criticism since the disaster.

## ***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 4245.***

Peter Rees-Gildea  
Director  
Operations Funding and Reporting Department

Bjorn Eder  
Director  
Europe Department