

# **TURKEY: EARTHQUAKES**

24 January 2000

*appeal no. 19/99*

*situation report no. 35*

*period covered: 17 August 1999-21 January 2000*

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*In the coming weeks, the Red Cross Red Crescent programme to assist earthquake victims in Turkey, will enter a new phase, focused on health, disaster preparedness, and rehabilitation and reconstruction. Hosted by the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS), a planning and information meeting, primarily called to review the proposed plan of action for 2000, will take place in Ankara on Friday 18 February 2000. With the end of winter on the horizon and most of the homeless accommodated either in winterized tent cities or prefabricated settlements and their basic needs covered, the Red Cross Red Crescent relief operation is entering its concluding period. To date, 13,674 mt of shelter related, medical and water-sanitation relief goods have been distributed throughout the affected areas - 5,542 mt provided through the International Federation, including more than 10,000 winterized tents. At the end of last year, the TRCS initiated an internal restructuring process aimed at modernising the Society at all levels. In addition to summarising the latest events relevant to the operation, this situation report is intended to provide an overview of Red Cross Red Crescent activities in Turkey since the first earthquake struck last August.*

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## ***The context***

In the second half of 1999, north-western Turkey, the country's most densely populated region and industrial heartland, was struck by two massive earthquakes in less than three months. The first, on 17 August 1999 at 03h02 local time, measured between 7.4 and 7.8 on the Richter scale and lasted 45 seconds. Izmit, an industrial city of one million in western Turkey, was nearest the epicentre. The official death toll stands at over 17,100, with some 44,000 people injured, nearly 300,000 homes either damaged or collapsed, and more than 40,000 business premises similarly affected. On the day of the catastrophe, 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 disaster was followed by more than 1,300 aftershocks, culminating in the second quake at 18h57 on 12 November 1999 which rated 7.2 on the Richter scale and shook Düzce and Kaynasli counties in the north-western province of Bolu, some 100 kms to the east of Izmit. The jolt was felt both in Istanbul (some 260 kms to the west) and Ankara, the nation's capital, 300 kms to the east. According to the latest casualty figures, there is a confirmed death toll of 845, with 4,948 people injured. Following is a summary of the combined disaster data for the quake hit areas:

			homes/businesses	homes/businesses
17 August 1999	17,100	44,000	77,300	244,500
12 November 1999	845	4,948	15,389	26,529
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,945</b>	<b>48,948</b>	<b>92,689</b>	<b>271,029</b>

## Update

To date, government officials have confirmed that some 30,000 prefabricated houses have been constructed throughout the entire affected areas, including the Bolu region where construction work on these temporary settlements continue.

Meanwhile, the pressure on the remaining tent city population to move into prefabricated houses is increasing - though many fear the resulting loss of rent allowances and other benefits. Nevertheless, in the area hit by the August quake, tent cities are closing as people transfer to the prefabricated houses. Full statistics are not yet available on the occupancy level of the new accommodation. The following table reflects the location of the remaining tent cities throughout the affected areas:

Location/area	Tent cities (no)	Winterized tents (no)	Population
IZMIT	11	4,271	19,107
GOLCUK	18	2,993	12,284
KARAMURSEL	1	162	600
ADAPAZARI	2	1,667	5,737
YALOVA	6	1,698	7,657
BOLU	13	3,699	15,039
DÜZCE	24	13,181	60,310
KAYNASLI	4	479	2,395
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>28,150</b>	<b>123,129</b>

Government plans for the reconstruction of towns damaged by the earthquakes are moving ahead. In Düzce, Sakarya, Kocaeli and Golchuk, sites for the construction of permanent housing have already been identified. Tenders for construction companies to present projects have been opened and work is expected to begin in April. Within the framework of the World Bank's master plan, some 22,000 dwellings are expected to be built.

Other measures such as interest free loans to assist the homeless who wish to buy or construct a house themselves have been made available. These funds are to be repaid in 20 years starting two years after the withdrawal of the money. To date, some 34,000 applications have been submitted, but the authorities are expecting many more in the coming months.

Weather conditions throughout the affected areas continue worsening with snowfalls of up to one metre in the Bolu region. Within the tent cities, concern is increasing due to sporadic fires breaking out. Meanwhile dozens of aftershocks continue to be reported on a weekly basis with magnitudes ranging from 2.4 to 4.7, including a particularly severe occurrence centred on Kaynasli last Thursday (20 January).

According to most recent official figures released by the public works and housing ministry, the total rebuilding and repair costs of the earthquakes is estimated at USD 1.5 billion.

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

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

#### ***Overview***

The months since the earthquake of 17 August 1999 have been among the most difficult in the long history of the TRCS. Until this disaster, the Society had a sound reputation within Turkey (and elsewhere) for its competence and ability to respond quickly and effectively when catastrophe struck. It is widely accepted that the scale and magnitude of the August quake would have tested the preparedness and resources of any country. Nevertheless, for weeks following this event, the Society bore the brunt of strong media criticism and consequent adverse public reaction, which, for a time, destabilised its leadership and severely undermined the confidence of its staff and volunteer base. An extraordinary general assembly in mid November elected a new president and, since then, the TRCS has initiated an internal restructuring process aimed at modernising the Society at all levels. An evaluation is being conducted by senior officials drawn from a number of leading Turkish institutions, with a final report and recommendations due for completion by the middle of February, 2000.

#### ***August earthquake***

With more than 14 local TRCS branches responding to the disaster, the Society was able to immediately distribute some 40,000 summer tents either directly or through the government crisis centres established throughout the affected area; other basic relief items, including blankets and sleeping bags, were also dispatched. In the days following the quake, some 35 mobile kitchens began functioning to assist people reluctant to move from the vicinity of their homes; gradually, facilities were provided for the population settling in the tent cities.

In coordination with the local crisis centres, the TRCS organised and managed six tent cities throughout the affected areas, where some 25,000 persons were sheltered. In other camps, the Society's staff and volunteers provided complementary support, mainly hot meals.

With the onset of colder weather, a key priority for the TRCS was the provision of winterised tents and despite some significant supply difficulties more than 10,000 of these items had reached the field by the end of 1999. Meanwhile the Society continued upgrading its field kitchen facilities based in Golchuk, reaching a capacity of three hot meals per day for some 70,000 people living in the tent cities. In conjunction with its Izmit branch, the TRCS is funding scholarships for over 50 university students affected by the August earthquake.

#### ***November earthquake***

Despite being heavily preoccupied with activities in the August quake area, the TRCS response to the November occurrence was widely praised as relief goods were rushed to this latest disaster zone. Distributions are still taking place in this region, albeit at reduced frequency and quantities. In particular, in Düzce, Bolu and Kaynasli, the Society continues to provide hot meals twice daily to almost 50,000 beneficiaries. The TRCS also delivered tents to the damaged State hospital of Düzce and a mobile clinic has been assisting some 350 persons per day in Kaynasli.

In early December, following a quake that hit the Erzurum region in northeast Turkey, the TRCS dispatched 100 winter tents and stoves to assist the homeless in some 25 affected villages.

#### ***Current plans***

With the affected population slowly moving into prefabricated settlements, especially in the August quake area, the Society plans to reduce the provision of hot meals and has indicated its intention to distribute family food parcels instead. Meanwhile, together with the International Federation and a number of sister Societies, the TRCS is gearing up for the implementation of an integrated disaster preparedness programme, incorporating training initiatives, search and rescue, telecommunications and restocking. The Society is also planning the construction of a state-of-the-art warehouse facility and a parcel of land near Adapazari has been identified as a suitable site.

Item	Total quantity received/distributed	Provided through International Federation	Unit **
Tent	74,492.00 (17,360 winterized)	13,360.00 (all winterized)	pcs.
Sleeping bag	43,776	42,268	pcs.
Field kitchen	81	42	pcs.
Clothing	9	9	20ft container
Mattresses	38,494	38,494	pcs.
Kitchen sets	12,727	12,727	pcs.
Soap	10,000	10,000	pcs.
Towels	5,000	5,000	pcs.
Family hyg. parcels	110,747	110,747	pcs.
Baby hyg. parcels	33,600	33,600	pcs.
Rubb-halls	34	34	pcs.
Plastic sheeting	1,095	1,095	rolls
Tarpaulins	1,499	1,499	rolls
Beds	63,828	42,756	pcs.
Blankets	398,581	97,408	pcs.
Bed linen sets	43,105	43,105	pcs.
Pallets	48,530	48,530	pcs.
Food	1,787,084	248,150	kg.
Quilts	5,359	-	pcs.
Stoves	42,490	30,000	pcs.
Generators	118	-	pcs.
Blood	855	-	unit
Wheelchairs	102	102	pcs.
Walking aids	168	168	pcs.
Crutches	960	960	pcs.

\*\* Turkish Red Crescent records cover the 17 August 1999 through 11 January 2000 period; International Federation records cover the 11 September 1999 through 11 January 2000 period.

## International Federation

### Overview

The International Federation issued a Preliminary Appeal on the day of the August earthquake followed by a full Appeal on 8 September 1999, covering relief, health and shelter activities covering the September 1999 through April 2000 period. The response from donors has been strong, including contributions in cash, kind and services from nearly 50 Red Cross Red Crescent Societies, the deployment of three emergency response units (ERUs) and a six-month ECHO funded project for the distribution of 250,000 hygiene parcels to 50,000 families.

Although the need for relief items is slowly decreasing, the International Federation continues supporting the TRCS in the provision of temporary shelters, health facilities and water-sanitation systems. Meanwhile its rehabilitation and reconstruction and psycho-social support programmes have been initiated and will continue being implemented during the coming months.

Since its initial response to the August quake, the International Federation has been continuously assessing the changing situation and addressing the most urgent and longer term needs. Another key role has centred on maintaining timely information-sharing between the delegation and all National Societies involved in the disaster, and providing day-to-day support with transport, office space and administration, thus avoiding duplication of services.

Currently, the International Federation's delegation is comprised of 17 delegates covering management, finance, health, information, relief, logistics, ECHO/operational reporting, telecommunications, water-sanitation and construction. As the relief programme winds down, it is expected that the number of delegates will reduce sharply over the coming months. Very shortly, the delegation will be moving from Istanbul to Ankara - where the TRCS headquarters is based - though a field presence will be maintained, primarily to expedite reporting/monitoring and programme implementation.

*Relief and logistics:* As the operation has progressed, a team of seven logistics/relief delegates has strengthened the TRCS capacity to respond to the needs of the population by building a logistics system (reception, clearance, storage and dispatch of goods) and a procurement facility which has processed more than 25 local contracts to a value of USD 5 million. Early in the operation, a 3,000 square metre warehouse was rented by the delegation at Samandira, near Istanbul as the receiving, storage and dispatch point for the bulk of Red Cross Red Crescent goods entering Turkey. With the external pipeline virtually complete, the down-sizing of the International Federation's logistics facilities has begun.

Three field/liaison delegates based in the main quake-hit areas continue to monitor and report the relief distributions. To date, more than 18,000 ECHO-funded hygiene parcels have been distributed, with the outstanding consignment to be dispatched upon delivery from the supplier, based on upcoming requests from the TRCS field representatives.

*Health:* The delegation's health department has played an important coordination role, together with the local health authorities, throughout the disaster. The first coordination health meetings to be held in the August quake hit area were organised by the International Federation, which also advised the mobilisation of specialised human resources and emergency equipment, either to replace or support the severely damaged local infrastructures.

Currently, the health department continues working closely with over 20 hospitals throughout the affected area, evaluating needs, providing medical equipment, coordinating rehabilitation/reconstruction works already underway and advising PNS and other potential donors on further reconstruction needs in the health sector. Two physiotherapists have been employed by the International Federation to work at a hospital specialising in rehabilitation in Istanbul for two months.

Meanwhile, an epidemiological surveillance and needs assessment project is being implemented in tent cities and prefabricated settlements; two locally recruited professional staff are currently carrying out this activity, expected to expand in the coming weeks with four additional recruits. The psycho-social support programme is now in its latest phase of formulation for launch in the coming weeks. Nine office containers are being provided to hospitals in the Bolu region.

A five day seminar on disaster preparedness for 60 Turkish medical students is being organised by the International Federation, in cooperation with the TRCS. The event will take place in the second half of March, with the participation of several International Federation and PNS representatives.

*Construction:* With the support of a Turkish architect recruited by the International Federation, the construction delegate is currently verifying the completion of work on a semi-permanent unit for the Kocaeli University Hospital, funded by the Japanese Red Cross.

The International Federation and the management of the Izmit State Hospital have recently signed a memorandum of understanding for a similar project and, following a tender process, a constructor has been identified.

Meanwhile, more than 40 rehabilitation and reconstruction projects have already been identified across both the August and November affected areas, including hospitals, health centres, schools, kindergartens, orphanages and centres for disabled. The work has been budgeted and classified in three categories reflecting the urgency of the needs.

*Water and sanitation:* Throughout the emergency, in-depth needs evaluations have been undertaken across the entire affected area, enabling the distribution of critical water-sanitation equipment to more than 35 tent cities, where some 60,000 persons have been hosted. Procurement contracts have been recently signed with local companies for around 100 WC and shower containers - to be distributed over the coming weeks - and the rental of 320 chemical toilets. A project to rehabilitate the damaged water pipeline system in the Kandira township - located some 40 km north of the Izmit municipality where many IDPs are hosted - has recently been defined.

Water-sanitation equipment distributed throughout the affected areas	Item	Number delivered
	WC containers	57
	Chemical WC on rent	320
	Shower containers	70
	Washing machine	205
	Tents	3
	Garbage bin	750
	Garbage containers (800 Lt)	40
	Septic tanks (10m3)	22
	Tap	122
	Pipe	1,088 mt
	Water heaters	16
	Water tanks (1.5m3)	12
	Water tanks (10m3)	19
	Water tanks (15m3)	3
	Water tanks (36m3)	2
	Water tanks (95m3)	41
	Pumps	11
	Chlorine	1035 kg

*Telecommunications:* A delegate has been supporting the operation, installing computer systems and a VHF and HF radio network donated by the Japanese Red Cross. A radio base station is now located in Istanbul and all International Federation cars will be equipped with radios.

*Reporting:* The International Federation's reporting delegate was temporarily transferred to Venezuela over the Christmas/New Year period, returning to Turkey in the first half of January. Situation reports are now planned to be issued twice-monthly, or more frequently if the need arises.

#### **Participating National Societies w**

The following Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies have assigned representatives in Turkey or since the onset of the disaster have operated emergency or medical programmes working under the umbrella of the International Federation, in cooperation with the TRCS.

*American Red Cross:* The Society mobilised human resources immediately after the August quake and set up a telecommunications service for family linking throughout all the affected area. In the early days of the disaster, the American Red Cross also facilitated a CDC rapid health survey, while participating in the International Federation's evaluation team. Over the coming year, the Society will focusing much of its efforts and resources working with the TRCS to implement a disaster preparedness programme.

*Austrian Red Cross:* Some 72 hours after the August earthquake struck, the Society dispatched a water-sanitation ERU which was immediately set up in Golchuk, providing potable water to the nearby tent cities, schools and hospitals. The unit operated in the country for 12 weeks and produced over eight million litres of water. An Austrian Red Cross water-sanitation expert also assisted the International Federation's team setting up water tanks donated by Oxfam in the Emirdag tent city.

*Belgium Red Cross:* In response to the August quake, a medical team worked in the Golchuk area, dispatching critical medical equipment, tents and other shelter related items. Currently the Society has a team of two expatriates in-country, coordinating the construction of a 70-unit prefabricated settlement. The Society has also conducted an assessment of the water-sanitation conditions in tent cities and prefabricated settlements.

*French Red Cross:* The Society's international department chief arrived in Turkey immediately following the August quake, joining the International Federation's evaluation team. Through its seven-member team, the Society continues its activities in Akyazi and Kaynasli, projected at the reconstruction of a school for 1,000 pupils and the distribution of relief items, including 800 tents, heaters and other shelter materials. The Society has also distributed toys to kindergarten students in the area and provides the youngsters with milk and biscuits. In the wake of the November quake, the French Red Cross also provided a dispensary to a camp managed by UNICEF, though needs are currently diminishing. A mobile clinic is now fully operational in the surrounding villages of Kaynasli and its staff have handled over 2,000 consultations.

*German Red Cross:* The Society immediately responded to both earthquakes, dispatching significant quantities of relief items. Medical equipment is still being distributed to hospitals and other health centres. Within hours of the August quake, a 150-bed field hospital, supplied by the Society as an ERU, was fully operational in Golchuk. The facility has recently been converted to prefabricated units, located in Yenikoy, Golchuk and, starting next month, it will be progressively handed over to the TRCS. With a 19-expatriate team, the Society has initiated a wide range of projects aiming at reconstructing and/or providing prefabricated facilities to hospitals (Bolu), physiotherapy centres (Kocaeli University hospital), basic health centres (Dongel, Izmit), blood banks (Istanbul, Düzce) and schools (Karamussel, Adapazari, Hisareyn). A physiotherapy post graduate programme at the Istanbul health directorate is being planned and, in line with International Federation recommendations, the German Red Cross is starting a major physiotherapy programme next month. In addition, the Society is initiating a psycho-social support programme (PSP), starting with the distribution of useful awareness information, related to trauma. The project is first being implemented in the Golchuk vicinity, with the possibility of expansion throughout all the affected areas, complementing the International Federation's planned PSP initiative. Other activities being undertaken by the Society include food distribution and school feeding programmes in villages surrounding Golchuk.

*Hellenic Red Cross:* Responding to the first quake, the Society sent a medical team which treated hundreds of patients in an emergency clinic during the first weeks of the disaster. In November, a search and rescue dog team was immediately dispatched.

*Italian Red Cross:* The Society responded to the November quake by sending a search and rescue dog team to the area. At present, two representatives from the Italian Red Cross are implementing an ECHO funded project aimed at distributing 50,000 hygiene parcels.

*Iraqi Red Crescent:* The Society has almost finalised a settlement of 1,500 prefabricated houses located in the Izmit area.

*Japanese Red Cross:* A medical team worked in a field hospital set up near Izmit in the first weeks after the disaster. The Society has provided major support to the International Federation's general relief programme, in particular funding the bulk of winterised tent procurement and also assisting with food needs, not included in the appeal budget. Having put at the disposal of the International Federation a construction delegate, the Society is evaluating other major rehabilitation and reconstruction projects for implementation during the coming months.

*Netherlands Red Cross:* The Society responded to both the August and November quake with search and rescue teams and by dispatching a consignment of medical and general relief items. Thousands of winter tents have been purchased by the Society, as well as other shelter related items. The Netherlands Red Cross has also concluded an ECHO funded project for the distribution of winter clothes to 4,000 persons living in five tent cities in the Golchuk area. A construction delegate is currently in the country, evaluating rehabilitation & reconstruction projects.

*Norwegian Red Cross:* Immediately after the November quake, a 120-bed ERU hospital (expanded to 250 beds) was placed near Izmit, where a 22 member expatriate team worked until mid September. Most of this facility was subsequently handed over to the University and Kocaeli Social Security hospitals for further use.

*Spanish Red Cross:* A few days after the August quake, the Society set up a 40-bed basic health centre in the Adapazari Emirdag tent city, managed by the TRCS. Further support to this tent city was provided with supplies of winterised tents. Following the November quake, the Society has distributed winter tents to the damaged hospitals throughout the area and has been supporting the TRCS with the installation of a tent city in Bolu. With ECHO funding, the Society provided this new settlement with all winter tents and shelter related items. Distributions have concluded to almost 1,000 families that have already moved into the tent city and the Society is planning to continue its involvement at this site, which still requires improved infrastructure. In addition, the Spanish Red Cross is working with the International Federation to move ahead with its project proposals for the construction of a hospital in Karamussel and a school in Adapazari. A recent project to provide two mobile clinics for the November quake area is being evaluated.

*Swiss Red Cross:* Some 2,000 winter tents and 20 sanitary containers purchased by the Society have been installed in the Izmit Yayahkaptan and Cephanalik tent cities. Working with the country representative of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Society has recently set up 250 additional winter tents in Kaynasli and other areas surrounding the town.

### **Project identification missions w**

In order to design a viable post-relief plan of action in Turkey and identify specific projects to be implemented in the longer term, in December 1999 the International Federation organised three assessment missions centred on health, disaster preparedness, and rehabilitation and reconstruction. The teams visited the field and held a range of meetings with key TRCS persons and other Turkish institutions, gathering much of the required information to accomplish the task. The disaster preparedness team was lead by a senior American Red Cross official, the health assessment by the International Federation's health coordinator in Turkey, and the reconstruction and rehabilitation effort by a construction consultant from the British Red Cross.

Initial findings, with recommendations, were prepared to schedule and, based on this documentation - working with the Turkish Red Crescent - a plan of action and budget for the coming year will be presented at a planning and information meeting to be held in Ankara on Friday 18 February 2000. The meeting will begin with an introductory session on the evening of Thursday, 17 February, 2000. Invitations to this gathering, which is being hosted by the TRCS, have been faxed to the international departments of all Red Cross Red Crescent Societies which have contributed to the International Federation appeal, for response by 31 January 2000.

Ahead of the meeting, the International Federation is conducting an internal review of the relief programme early next month, including distribution methodologies, monitoring and reporting and a planned and viable exit strategy.

## ***External relations - Government/UN/NGO's/Media***

Since the start of the emergency, the International Federation has maintained regular contact with the country representatives of UNDP, WFP, UNICEF, USAID and ECHO. Information has been shared with most NGOs which have participated in the response to the disaster at the various coordination meetings that have taken place. Embassies in Ankara have been contacted and are constantly informed about the development of the operation by their respective PNS.

After both August and November quakes, the Federation information team continued to provide international media with accurate and rapid information. Dozens of interviews were carried out on a daily basis and, when required, journalists have been accompanied to the field to visit the Red Cross Red Crescent activities.

## ***Outstanding needs***

Further resources and support needed to implement the plan of action for 2000 will be detailed at the forthcoming planning and information meeting in Ankara, set for Friday 18 February 2000. Sourcing of all the goods and services required to undertake the International Federation's programme, as set out in the appeal of 8 September 1999 and subsequently confirmed, is now complete. Unearmarked cash contributions continue to be welcome and will be directed towards implementation of activities scheduled for the coming year.

## ***Contributions***

See Annex 1 for details.

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