

TURKEY: EARTHQUAKES

17 July 2000

appeal no. 19/99

situation report no. 42

period covered: 1 June 2000 - 30 June 2000

The following report describes in detail how, eleven months after the earthquake of 17 August 1999, Red Cross and Red Crescent programmes in the post emergency phase continue to forge ahead, covering a range of initiatives including construction and rehabilitation, psycho-social, physiotherapy, water-sanitation, health, disaster response, preparedness and management, logistics, training and social welfare activities. The response by the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS) to an earthquake near Ankara in early June was rapid and effective.

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, centred on the industrial city of Izmit, on 17 August 1999, left 17,100 people dead and a further 44,000 injured. 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 death toll from a second major quake - in the Bolu/Duzce region, on 12 November 1999 - reached 845, with injuries to nearly 5,000 people. An estimated 400,000 buildings either collapsed or were badly damaged by the two earthquakes.

Update

An earthquake rated at 5.9 on the Richter scale struck a remote area of Turkey, some 110 km north west of Ankara, at 05h45 local time on 6 June. Casualties were limited to three dead and 81 injured. There was severe damage to buildings in 22 villages in Cankire province, including one community, Dodurga, where half the housing stock has been destroyed; across the affected region, there are 4,680 damaged buildings. The quake was also felt in Ankara, where people fled their beds into the street, fearing a second tremor. To date, 32 aftershocks measuring between 3.2 and 5.2 on the Richter scale

have been recorded in the region. Ambulances and medical teams were deployed by the government, which established a crisis centre in Orta town. Within two hours of the quake, a team of senior government officials, accompanied by the TRCS President, overflowed the stricken area to assess the damage and plan the response. The tremor has caused cracking in a nearby dam, which has been slowly emptied for safety reasons. Telecommunications systems were also hit.

Updated figures released by the government's regional disaster coordinator confirm that there are 39 tent cities remaining in the two earthquake-affected areas, hosting over 35,000 people, located at the following sites: 12 in Izmit, 1 in Adapazari, 11 in Bolu and 15 in Düzce. Prefabricated settlements now total 139. Some 41,800 prefabricated houses have been completed and almost all are occupied, hosting a population of over 146,000. The construction of the last 1,136 planned semi-permanent houses is underway.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Turkish Red Crescent

The TRCS has responded swiftly and effectively to the earthquake that hit Cankiri-Orta and Ankara-Cubuk provinces in June. The Society sent relief supplies and shelter-related items including a total of 2,361 tents and 1,040 blankets to the earthquake-hit areas. In addition, hot meals were distributed three times a day to 11,000 people from the day of the disaster through 22 June.

International Federation

Disaster response and preparedness management (DRPM): The American Red Cross is continuing to finalise details for replenishment of disaster preparedness stocks valued at USD 7 million with anticipated delivery during the summer. Disaster management training is being piloted in July in Izmir, sponsored by the American Red Cross and supported by the International Federation within the DRPM framework. Twenty participants from the TRCS will evaluate the course as a basic management tool for the Society, ahead of the next phase of disaster training. The first exchange with the American Red Cross is scheduled for late July, with six TRCS staff travelling to the United States for a three-week technical exchange in operations and operational modelling. The German Red Cross is also supporting the American Red Cross within the DRPM framework. In addition, the Society has sponsored two senior TRCS staff to Germany to participate in a disaster preparedness workshop and will shortly initiate a pilot disaster preparedness programme with the TRCS local branch in Izmit.

Logistics and Relief: The Samandira warehouse, rented early in the operation by the International Federation and used as the receiving, storage and dispatch point for the bulk of Red Cross and Red Crescent goods entering Turkey during the emergency phase, was vacated on 30 June. Goods applicable to Istanbul operations are now being stored in two containers located at the TRCS Maltepe warehouse. Other smaller items have been moved to Ankara, where the International Federation has the use of two containers at the TRCS Etimesgut warehouse. A large consignment of prefabricated buildings have been sent to Ankara as part of the TRCS disaster preparedness stock. The TRCS is also providing a small storage area for the International Federation's dedicated disaster preparedness stock. In response to a call from the Turkey delegation, the British Red Cross dispatched 880 summer tents which are now stored in the Maltepe warehouse.

Multipurpose social facilities: The programme to provide multipurpose social facilities for earthquake victims housed in temporary accommodation is underway, in full cooperation with the TRCS. With funding from the Canadian Red Cross and the Kuwait Red Crescent, the programme will include the construction of three semi-permanent buildings for the benefit of people living in tent cities and

prefabricated settlements in the environs of Adapazari, Düzce and Kaynasli. The International Federation delegation is currently surveying the affected population and consulting local authorities to identify the main needs of the beneficiary communities and define the programme accordingly. It is intended that the management of the multipurpose social facilities will be handed over to the TRCS local branches one year after their completion. Meanwhile, two pilot projects to provide equipment for recreational social facilities in the Yahya Kaptan prefabricated settlement in Izmit and in the Fidanlik prefabricated city in Düzce have been successfully completed. A third pilot project to purchase and donate sports equipment for prefabricated settlements in Yalova, where the municipality is providing sports grounds, has started.

ECHO programme: The distribution of the 250,000 ECHO-funded hygiene parcels was finalised in June, with some 365 small communities, comprising tent cities, prefabricated settlements, tent clusters and villages assisted. The International Federation relief team is now focusing mainly on surveying the impact of this programme in the field among the beneficiaries. Meanwhile, ECHO has approved a revision of the budget to allow utilisation of unspent funds for the procurement of equipment for a kitchen intended as an occupational therapy centre for disabled persons at the '70th Year Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Hospital' in Istanbul. Due to a considerable increase in the number of patients after the 1999 earthquakes, the hospital requested assistance from the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The Turkey delegation health team is currently finalising the procurement procedures for all the necessary modular equipment for the establishment of the vocational kitchen/occupational centre, which is due to be functional by the end of July. The centre's main objective will be to help disabled patients learn how to live and cope with their disabilities and how to develop income-generating activities after their discharge from the hospital.

Health: At the end of June, the Turkey delegation health team organised a five-day workshop on first aid and disaster preparedness for TRCS Nursing School students in Istanbul. This initiative was also supported by the German Red Cross. The group of participants comprised 33 graduating students of the school and 12 teachers and 12 workers from the TRCS blood banks. The Emergency Medical Association of Turkey (EMAT) conducted a cardiopulmonary resuscitation training and official certificates were issued to the participants during the last day of the workshop. The International Federation is now planning to organise a first aid training of trainers as a follow up for this workshop, again involving the EMAT and also targeting TRCS nurses, who will then become officially recognised first aid trainers.

During the reporting period, the health team distributed medical items, surgical equipment and medicines to Izmit Social Security Hospital and Kandira State Hospital. While this report was being prepared, the International Federation also donated 150 first aid training mannequins to the TRCS. Some of these items were immediately sent to the Yeniköy training centre to be used in another first aid training course organised by the German Red Cross and the TRCS.

Meanwhile, the health surveillance team is identifying earthquake victims suffering from severe spinal cord injuries who can be considered as potential beneficiaries for an International Federation physiotherapy rehabilitation programme still at the planning stage.

Following a request made by the TRCS branch in Akyazi, the French Red Cross has sponsored three first aid training courses attended by 80 participants, mostly National Society local personnel.

The German Red Cross continues to facilitate the implementation of a physiotherapy programme in the Kocaeli area, including, to date, staging several workshops on physiotherapy for geriatrics, gymnastics for pregnant women and providing physiotherapy training to 20 nurses from the State Hospital in Gölcük.

The Spanish Red Cross continues to support the TRCS first aid programme, working closely with the International Federation. Among key first aid-related activities carried out by the Society to date are

the translation into Turkish of a first aid handbook and a training manual for use in various TRCS training activities and also for distribution to the general public. In addition, a consignment of health-related items, including 100 first aid kits, has been dispatched recently from Spain and is due to arrive in Turkey in the coming days for distribution by the International Federation and the TRCS. The Spanish Red Cross also intends to support the TRCS national blood programme by providing two mobile blood-collection units, to meet immediate needs and as part of the Society's disaster response capacity.

Psycho-social support: During the reporting period, the psycho-social team has identified a location in Avcilar, Istanbul, for the establishment of a permanent psycho-social centre. After finalising some renovation works, the centre should be fully operational during August 2000. Some of the main psycho-social related activities undertaken in June included efforts to strengthen the group dynamics among the volunteers and the elaboration of specific projects for psycho-social interventions in the community. The programme is now being extended to other quake-affected areas and the office containers temporarily utilised in Avcilar will now be transported to Izmit where the second pilot psycho-social centre will be established in the coming weeks.

The German Red Cross is also supporting psycho-social activities for quake victims in the two affected areas by providing counselling sessions in the Yeniköy hospital and outreach assistance in Izmit, Gölcük, Karamursel, Degimendere and Düzce. All the TRCS staff in the area have attended training sessions conducted by the German Red Cross psychologist, focusing on how to identify signs of stress and post traumatic stress disorders. The Swiss Red Cross continues to help with financial support for a Swiss NGO to enable the continuation of a psycho-social programme in Tigem prefabricated settlement in Yalova.

Water-sanitation: A chlorinator has been installed in the water system in Thermal, near Yalova, after cases of tularaemia were reported. A pre-qualification exercise is taking place to select a number of the firms identified as potential subcontractors for the Kandira water pipeline project, funded by the Swiss Red Cross. A final selection will be made during mid July. Tendering will begin as soon as the memorandum of understanding (MOU) is signed between the Turkish authorities responsible for water and sewerage works in rural areas and the International Federation.

Construction: The construction of the Izmit State Hospital, funded by the Singapore Red Cross, was effectively completed on schedule during June and will be inaugurated shortly. The MOUs for the construction/rehabilitation of four hospitals and five schools in the quake-affected area have been finalised for signature by the International Federation, the TRCS and the health and education ministries as appropriate. The Belgium Red Cross has completed its construction project of 35 prefabricated houses in Gölcük and the 70 selected families are already occupying the units.

A ceremony was held on 26 June for the placement of the first stone of a school in Akyazi, being constructed by the French Red Cross. This occasion was attended by several Turkish authorities and representatives of the French Red Cross, the TRCS and the International Federation. This project, budgeted at USD 1.8 million, is scheduled for completion in October 2000. In addition, the tendering process for the construction of an extension to a hospital in Gölcük is underway.

The Italian Red Cross is finalising the tendering process for the construction of an ECHO-funded 800 square metre semi-permanent health centre in Düzce. Work will start shortly and is expected to be completed within four months.

The German Red Cross construction of a hospital in Bolu is underway. After finalising the tendering process, the Society will begin the practical construction work in August 2000. Another two planned construction projects - a regional blood bank in Istanbul and the TRCS Gölcük branch - are progressing well. In addition, the German Red Cross is currently considering a fourth construction project for a health facility in Düzce. Two schools in Hisaryn and Hamidye, funded by the Society, were recently opened and officially handed over to the responsible local authorities.

The Spanish Red Cross has finalised the tendering process for four construction projects it intends to implement in the quake-affected areas: a school in Adapazari, a hospital and a polyclinic in Karamursel and a health centre in Kaynasli. Construction works are in progress for completion by late October 2000.

Telecommunications: The International Federation's telecommunications delegate is conducting basic training sessions on the use of satellite phones for the TRCS relief department. In addition, an HF base radio station has been set up at the Society's headquarters in Ankara. This facility represents the first step which will allow for the establishment of a wide ranging radio network, connecting the TRCS blood banks and regional warehouses to the Society's national headquarters, as well as to each other.

Youth: In conjunction with the TRCS, the German Red Cross is currently organising an international youth summer camp to take place in Cebeci in July, with an expected participation of 600 young persons. Activities will range from water rescue and first aid training to an overview of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and its principles.

Education/Training: The International Federation and the German Red Cross are working closely on the implementation of a training of trainers programme which aims to train 12 trainers in the philosophy, history and principles of the Movement. The trainers will then be responsible for organising induction courses for Red Cross Red Crescent staff in Turkey.

Publicity Materials: The preparation of a wide-range of print and audio-visual materials to mark the first anniversary of the earthquake on 17 August 1999 is underway. These items will include an eight-page 'Insight' publication (printed in Turkish, French and English), a video news release targeting global TV networks, an advertisement tailored for Turkish television and, in September, a CD encapsulating key documentation and images, including the first anniversary materials. The evaluation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent operation (17 August 1999 through 30 April 2000), conducted by an independent consultant, is due for printing before the end of the month, with distribution planned for early August.

Outstanding needs

An extended situation report, to be published on 17 August 2000, will include a review of activities undertaken within the framework of appeal no 19/99 and details of the budget covering International Federation programmes in progress. Meanwhile, unearmarked cash contributions to the International Federation's Turkey earthquakes appeal continue to be welcome. The International Federation is also seeking support on behalf of the Norwegian Red Cross for a project (provisionally budgeted at CHF 1,123,717) to replenish three field hospitals donated by the National Society to the TRCS during the 1990s and in need of new equipment and refurbishment.

Contributions

Please see Annex 1 for details.

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