

TURKEY: EARTHQUAKES

4 August 2000

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period covered: 1 July 2000 - 31 July 2000

In another busy month for the Red Cross Red Crescent operation in Turkey, the Turkish Red Crescent and American Red Cross Societies signed a wide-ranging partnership agreement; memoranda of understanding were concluded with relevant authorities for various construction and water-sanitation projects; a series of training workshops took place; a youth camp organised by the German Red Cross opened; the ECHO-funded hygiene parcel programme was concluded; and there was further progress in the field of psycho-social support for victims of both earthquakes. Meanwhile, the International Federation is urgently seeking experienced delegates to fill four technical positions: construction, health, information/reporting and logistics.

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

On 7 July 2000, a moderate earthquake, measuring 4.2 on the Richter scale, shook the Princess Islands in the Marmara Sea and was also strongly felt in Istanbul, causing panic and concern among the population. The Turkish media reported that 36 persons were injured while trying to escape from their

homes during and immediately after the incident. According to a Turkish seismologic laboratory, some 80 small/moderate quakes and aftershocks, measuring between 2.9 and 4.7 on the Richter scale, were registered in Turkey during July alone.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Turkish Red Crescent

The Presidents of the Turkish Red Crescent and the American Red Cross Societies signed an agreement in Ankara on 24 July 2000 linking the two Federation members in a cooperative partnership centred on scientific and social research dedicated to increasing the effectiveness of Red Cross Red Crescent future service plans for earthquake preparedness, response and management. The two Societies have agreed to establish an earthquake institute. The American Red Cross has committed to assisting the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS) to design and fully develop an emergency operations centre, closely modelled after its own disaster operations centre.

The TRCS senior management is currently heavily involved in arranging various events to mark the first anniversary of the earthquake that occurred on 17 August 1999. A number of sister Societies have accepted invitations to attend.

International Federation

Delegation: With the Turkey earthquakes operation approaching the one-year milestone, four experienced technical delegates are sought, covering construction, information/reporting, health and logistics. The present post-holders are due to finish their missions in the coming month.

Disaster response and preparedness management (DRPM): A first draft of the DRPM operational plan has been prepared by the TRCS with technical input from the American Red Cross team. This document will now be refined for discussion and agreement on implementation at a meeting of the DRPM working group, scheduled for the second half of September. Meanwhile, the Turkey delegation health coordinator has established initial contacts with the Istanbul preventive crisis centre and Izmit, Bolu and Düzce health directors to discuss health-related disaster preparedness issues and to strengthen the cooperation between the International Federation and these key local players in disaster response and public health.

The French Red Cross (FRC) is increasing its role in the DRPM programme working closely with the American Red Cross and the TRCS. The FRC will provide equipment to the TRCS Sakarya branch, including shelter-related and relief items for disaster preparedness stock. In addition, the French Red Cross conducted a disaster response simulation exercise with the TRCS personnel in Akyazi during the first weekend of July.

Logistics: The second consignment of four mobile clinics, donated by the Australian Red Cross, has been cleared from customs and handed over to the TRCS. The International Federation's logistics delegate is also organising a training session later this month to enable TRCS personnel to install easy-to-erect, portable buildings as part of the Red Cross Red Crescent disaster response stock. The light-weight aluminium framed units, purchased with funds from the Australian Red Cross, offer combined cover of more than 2,000 sq m in a variety of configurations.

Social welfare: A draft agreement on the construction of a social facility in Kaynasli is being prepared for signature by the Federation, the TRCS and the respective local authorities. Meanwhile, a pilot project to purchase and donate sports equipment for prefabricated settlements in Yalova, where the municipality is providing outdoor facilities, will be finalised shortly. The procurement has been completed and installations are underway.

The German Red Cross is providing a playground for children accommodated at the Kullar prefabricated settlement in Izmit. The Italian Red Cross is planning to build a café in a prefabricated settlement

in Düzce to be used as a meeting point for women and for the development of income-generating activities.

ECHO programme: The relief team is now analysing the information files from the ECHO-funded hygiene parcels distribution points for the preparation of the programme's final report. Some 250,000 hygiene parcels were distributed to quake victims from January to June 2000. Over 365 communities, comprising tent cities, prefabricated settlements, tent clusters and rural villages, were assisted. In addition, the procurement of the modular equipment for the establishment of a vocational kitchen for disabled persons in the 70th Year Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Hospital, funded by ECHO, was recently completed. The facility will be functioning at full capacity by mid-August.

Health: During the reporting period, the Turkey delegation health department continued to distribute medicines, medical items and surgical equipment to hospitals in Izmit, Kandira, Adapazari and Bolu. Primary health care items were also donated to Bolu and Düzce health directors to be distributed among various health centres in the area affected by the earthquake which occurred on 12 November 1999. A second consignment of 6,000 diapers was locally purchased and is now being distributed by the Federation health surveyors to the elderly in tent cities and prefabricated settlements. In addition, a total of 15 adult and 15 trauma first aid training mannequins were donated to the TRCS in July.

Preparations are now underway for a first aid training of trainers and triage workshop, scheduled for the first weekend in August. The group of participants will include the TRCS nursing school teachers and graduating students, blood bank personnel and the Federation health surveyors. The health team is also assessing the needs of severely disabled quake victims to whom the Federation will donate prothesis and wheelchairs. Meanwhile, following a request from the TRCS, the Federation will be assisting the Society with first aid activities during the Christian pilgrimage which takes place annually in the town of Ephesus in southern Turkey.

The German Red Cross is providing all necessary medical equipment for four health centres in Izmit and one in Karamursel. From 10 through 22 July 2000, the Society also organised a first aid training course for 20 doctors and nurses currently working for the TRCS at the Yeniköy training centre.

During the period covered in this report, the Spanish Red Cross received a consignment of health-related items, which included: 100 first aid kits for training purposes and distribution by the Federation and TRCS in health posts throughout the quake-affected area; disposable medical supplies for use by TRCS blood banks; and medical equipment for distribution in Kaynasli and Karamursel. In addition, the Spanish Red Cross will continue to provide technical and financial support to the TRCS first aid programme and is donating four mobile blood collection units to the Society.

Psycho-social support: The second training module of the Federation's psycho-social support programme, focusing on loss and grief, was held in Avcilar from 4 through 6 July 2000. A member of the Federation's Secretariat health department and a representative from the Danish Red Cross reference centre for psycho-social programmes visited Turkey from 10 through 14 July 2000 and provided important technical advice. Subsequent to the visit, a revised plan of action and budget is under preparation.

Water-sanitation: The memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the implementation of the Kandira water pipeline project, funded by the Swiss Red Cross, was signed on 20 July 2000 by representatives of the International Federation, the TRCS and the General Directory of the Turkish authorities for water and sewerage works in rural areas. Sixteen contracting firms have been interviewed as part of the pre-qualification process and eight invited to tender. The received tenders will be submitted to the General Directory on 9 August and a contracts committee will determine the award of the contracts.

During July, 50 chemical toilets (out of 320 rented by the International Federation from December 1999 through June 2000) were retained in strategic locations of Bolu; the number will reduce to 30 during August.

Construction: The MOU for the construction/rehabilitation of four hospitals in the quake-affected area was signed by the International Federation, the TRCS and the health ministry on 14 July 2000. In the meantime, negotiations are underway to finalise an MOU with the education ministry for the construction of five schools. The delegation's construction team is also providing technical advice to the German, Spanish and French Red Cross Societies for the planning and implementation of various construction and rehabilitation projects.

The French Red Cross construction project of a school in Akyazi is progressing well. The Society has also finalised the tendering process for the construction of a hospital in Gölcük and the contract was signed on 26 July 2000. The contracts committee comprised representatives of the French Red Cross, TRCS and the health ministry.

The ground breaking ceremony for the construction of a hospital in Bolu, funded by the German Red Cross, is scheduled to take place on 16 August 2000. Other construction/rehabilitation projects planned by the Society include a new TRCS Gölcük branch and a health facility in Düzce.

The Italian Red Cross is finalising the tendering process for the construction of an ECHO-funded health centre in Düzce. Work will start shortly and should be completed within four months.

In early July, the Spanish Red Cross subcontracted a construction company to implement four projects: a school in Adapazari; a hospital and polyclinic in Karamursel; and a health centre in Kaynasli. Work commenced in mid-July under the supervision of the Spanish Red Cross representative, its engineering consultant and the Federation construction team.

Youth: In conjunction with the TRCS, the German Red Cross is managing and sponsoring a ten-week international youth summer camp in the Black Sea town of Cebeci. A total of 600 young persons are participating in this programme with activities ranging 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 induction course programme for Red Cross Red Crescent Turkish staff began in the last week of July. The first training session took place at the German Red Cross training centre in Yeniköy on 27 July and included German Red Cross and TRCS staff currently working at the Yeniköy facility. The second session, targeted at service personnel, was held at the TRCS nursing school in Istanbul on the following day.

Preparations are underway for the Swiss Red Cross training programme in social competence and conflict resolution focusing on inhabitants of prefabricated settlements in Izmit. The courses will be carried out by a Turkish foundation.

Evaluation: The independent evaluation of the Red Cross Red Crescent relief operation in Turkey (17 August 1999 through 30 April 2000) - requested at the planning and information meeting hosted by the TRCS in Ankara earlier this year - will be mailed to donors within the Movement in the coming days. The 100-page document comprehensively details and analyses events over a turbulent eight-month period, including the work of the TRCS, Federation delegation and secretariat and Red Cross Red Crescent Societies active in Turkey. There are also chapters covering coordination and a series of issues including cultural awareness, gender sensitivity and adherence to the code of conduct. In all, 40 recommendations are made, mainly focusing on: preparedness; assessments; appeal process; organisation of the Federation secretariat; human resources; logistics; procurement procedures; relief; reconstruction; coordination; finance; and the urban 'developed' context.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

The *World Disasters Report*, published annually by the International Federation was launched in Turkey on 3 July 2000 for the first time since the document's inception in 1993. The ceremony was held at the TRCS nursing school in Istanbul and participants included Turkish authorities, NGO representatives, academics, journalists and Red Cross Red Crescent representatives/personnel. The 2000 edition of the *World Disasters Report* focuses on public health and includes an article entitled 'Turkish earthquakes leave long-term legacy', written by the delegation's health coordinator. The launch was sponsored by ECHO and received good coverage from the Turkish media, providing a positive opportunity to promote the work of both the Red Cross Red Crescent and ECHO on behalf of quake victims in Turkey.

The Federation is also implementing various initiatives to commemorate the first anniversary of the 17 August 1999 earthquake later this month:

- An eight page *Insight* publication has been printed in Turkish, French and English and is being mailed to donors, including Red Cross Red Crescent Societies which contributed to the Federation appeal, and the international community.
- A video news release has been finalised and will be distributed to global TV networks in the week of 14 August 2000.
- The TRCS and the Federation are also working with a leading Turkish advertising agency to produce a TV spot for airing on Turkish television on or around 17 August 2000.
- In September, a CD will be compiled with all key documentation and visual images from the first year of the Turkey earthquakes operation.

Outstanding needs

- As noted earlier, the International Federation is urgently seeking four experienced technical delegates for the delegation's construction, health, information/reporting and logistics functions.
- Support is also sought 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.
- Unearmarked cash contributions to the International Federation's Turkey earthquakes appeal (19/99) continue to be welcome.

Contributions

Please see Annex 1 for details.

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