

## ***TURKEY: EARTHQUAKE***

*29 September,  
2000*

*appeal no. 19/99*

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*period covered: 1 to 31 August, 2000*

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*A variety of essential humanitarian activities has continued in Turkey throughout the reporting period, including health, construction, psycho-social support and social welfare. Ceremonies to commemorate the first anniversary of the earthquake on 17 August 1999 were a particular highlight of the month.*

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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, 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***

The Marmara region was once again shaken by a moderate quake measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale at 16h45 local time on Wednesday, 23 August. There were no reports of damage but nine persons were reported injured. According to the Istanbul-based Kandilli observatory, the epicentre was the Hendek district of Sakarya, one of the worst-affected provinces in the 17 August 1999 earthquake.

The tremor, also felt in Istanbul, Yalova and Izmit, lasted for less than 10 seconds. This was the second quake to hit Turkey over two days. On Tuesday, 22 August, another moderate tremor shook Ankara, damaging some 79 buildings in a small town, Beypazari, just outside the Turkish capital. No injuries were reported, but several people were taken to hospital in shock or after fainting. This quake, measuring 4.3 on the Richter scale, occurred at 14h40 local time and was centred near the town of Beypazari, some 40 kilometres north-west of Ankara. According to data collected by the Kandilli Seismologic Observatory, some 500 tremors measuring between 2.6 and 5.9 on the Richter scale have taken place since May in different regions of the country, with around 135 of these registered during August alone. These tremors included both aftershocks and independent jolts.

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

### **Turkish Red Crescent •**

Throughout August, the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS) senior management were heavily involved in the organisation of various events to mark the first anniversary of the earthquake that occurred on 17 August 1999. The commemorations were planned in close cooperation with the International Federation and sister National Societies operating in Turkey.

The main activities included the inaugurations of the Izmit state hospital and the first psycho-social support centre in Avçilar, the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the Bolu state hospital being built by the German Red Cross and a national commemoration organised on 17 August by the TRCS and the Turkish government. All these events were attended by representatives from some 12 National Societies' and the International Federation's Under Secretary General for National Society Cooperation and Development.

Following the earthquake on 23 August in Hendek, the TRCS dispatched 30 tents and two health teams and offer further help to the area if required. Towards the end of the month, the Society began detailed planning for a meeting of sister Societies and representatives of the International Federation and ICRC in Ankara at the end of September.

### **International Federation •**

*Disaster Response and Preparedness Management (DRPM):* The American Red Cross continues to provide primary support to the TRCS in the enhancement of its disaster response capacities. Recent DRPM activities have included the completion of winter tent specification; initiation of the tender process to enhance the TRCS crisis telecommunications system; planning for the development of an emergency operations centre; programme development for the upcoming meeting being organised by the TRCS for sister Societies; preliminary analysis for the development of the volunteer system and - with the German Red Cross - support for the information system automation.

The French Red Cross has just completed an assessment of the disaster response capacity of the Sakarya province. Based on their findings, the Society will now draft a project plan, within the DRPM framework to be proposed to the TRCS for future implementation. The German Red Cross is also expanding its role in the DRPM programme. Some key areas in which the Society is concentrating its efforts include training in emergency health care and setting up a TRCS core rescue team.

*Logistics:* A training course on how to construct and dismantle a consignment of prefabricated hospitals and clinics procured by the Federation, with funding from the Australian Red Cross and donated to the TRCS, took place in Ankara from 14 August to 1 September. A total of 16 National Society staff attended the training. Following a request submitted by the TRCS, the Federation and the supplier of the units have agreed to repeat the training for a second group of participants.

*Social welfare:* The social welfare delegate has readied for signature a memorandum of understanding between the Federation, the TRCS and the relevant Turkish authorities for the construction of social facilities in temporary settlements in the quake-hit areas. During August, the pilot

project to purchase and donate sports equipment for prefabricated settlements in Yalova, where the municipality is providing outdoor facilities, was finalised. Meanwhile, the Italian Red Cross is planning to implement an income-generating project targeted at women living in a prefabricated settlement in Düzce. The project proposal is currently being considered by the Society's headquarters in Rome.

*Health:* A first aid training of trainers and triage workshop was staged by the Turkey delegation health team on 4 and 5 August. The workshop took place at the TRCS nursing school in Istanbul and the group of participants included the school's teachers and graduating students, National Society's blood bank personnel and the Federation health surveillance team. The delegation health team has continued to distribute medicines to health centres in the quake-affected areas and to assess the needs of severely disabled earthquake victims to whom the Federation will donate prothesis and wheelchairs and, possibly, sponsor physiotherapy and rehabilitation treatment in the future.

By the end of the month, preparations were well advanced for a first aid workshop, funded by the Spanish Red Cross and also supported by the Federation and German Red Cross, which took place in mid-September, targeted at standardising a training of trainers programme for the TRCS.

The German Red Cross (GRC) continues to support both the prefabricated hospital in Yeniköy, where an average of 750 patients are treated every week, and the Kocaeli university hospital which is providing physiotherapy treatment for over 600 patients per month. During August, the GRC also supplied a wide range of medical equipment to various health facilities in the environs of Gölcük. In addition, the Society organised a one-week tented field hospital training course in Yeniköy, focusing on how to set up and run a basic health facility during an emergency situation. The course was attended by a group of 21 participants, comprising mainly TRCS personnel.

*Psycho-social support:* The pilot psycho-social support centre in Avcilar was officially inaugurated on 19 August 2000 and work in this facility is now well underway. The inauguration was attended by Red Cross Red Crescent representatives - including the TRCS - local authorities, community leaders and the Turkish media. In addition, the psycho-social support team is now conducting the first training module in the recently opened centre in Izmit. The German Red Cross continues to implement its psycho-social programme with a special emphasis in providing care to caregivers.

*Water-sanitation:* Discussions between the International Federation, the Turkish authorities for water and sewerage works in rural areas and the construction firms are ongoing to define the start date for the implementation of the Kandira water pipeline project, funded by the Swiss Red Cross.

*Construction:* The Izmit State Hospital, funded by the Singapore Red Cross, was inaugurated on 15 August, two days before the 17 August earthquake anniversary. The event was attended by the TRCS leaders, representatives from sister Societies - including the Singapore Red Cross - the Federation and Turkish authorities. The new facility with a 130-bed capacity and four operating theatres is now fully operational. Meanwhile, the detailed design process for the Sakarya and Duzce state hospitals, funded by the Japanese Red Cross, is progressing with the health ministry.

On 24 August, the French Red Cross signed an agreement with the TRCS and the health ministry for extending and refurbishing the Gölcük state hospital. Construction works began in 1 August and are expected to be completed by the end of the year. In addition, construction works for a school for 1,000 pupils in Akyazi are progressing well and according to schedule.

The German Red Cross has awarded a contract for the construction of the Bolu state hospital. The groundbreaking ceremony took place on 16 August 2000. Preparations are also underway for the construction of a prefabricated school in Kara Köprü, near Gölcük. The Italian Red Cross has finalised the tendering process for the selection of a firm to construct an ECHO-funded health centre in Düzce. Construction works have already begun and are progressing as planned.

Four Spanish Red Cross construction projects are underway. The excavation works have just started for the health centre project in Kaynasli, while the foundations have been completed for the school in Adapazari and the hospital and polyclinic in Karamursel. A construction delegate employed by the Spanish Red Cross will be arriving in Turkey early in September to ensure the requisite supervision and reporting for the Society's construction projects.

*Education/Training:* In addition to sponsoring training programmes to inhabitants and managers of prefabricated settlements in Izmit, the Swiss Red Cross is providing financial support for the Kocaeli education directorate. The Society will provide furniture for 145 classrooms in prefabricated schools in the environs of Izmit.

*Youth:* The German Red Cross has organised a water rescue training in the TRCS youth camp in Cebeci, in the Black Sea region. A total of thirty National Society volunteers were trained and certified as lifeguards, forming the TRCS' first lifeguard rescue service team.

*Delegation:* The Turkey delegation is currently in a period of transition with the recruitment of a fresh senior management team, based in Ankara and Istanbul, to support the head of delegation and the assignment of new construction, disaster preparedness and logistics delegates. The appointment of a replacement reporting/information delegate is awaited to complete the team. Meanwhile, the delegation has undergone a routine internal audit, carried out annually in all operations with budget exceeding CHF one million. The Federation auditors visited the delegation in Ankara and the Istanbul office from 20 through 30 August.

*Reporting:* Pending the placement of a new reporting/information delegate, the delegation's monthly operational reporting schedule is temporarily suspended; Federation minimum reporting standards will continue to be respected.

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

During the week of the first anniversary of the 17 August earthquake, Red Cross and Red Crescent activities in Turkey came under the media spotlight, nationally and internationally. On the evening of 17 August, the Federation's deputy head of delegation was interviewed live on a prime time CNN news programme. In order to remind the world of the plight of the earthquake victims in Turkey and to highlight Red Cross Red Crescent action, the Federation implemented the following projects:

- Printing of an eight page *Insight* publication in Turkish, English and French;
- Production of a video news release which was distributed and shown on various global and national TV networks;
- Production of a TV spot, working closely with a leading Turkish advertising agency, aired on Turkish television around the anniversary date.

## ***Outstanding needs***

Support continues to be 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 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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