

## ***TURKEY: EARTHQUAKES***

*10 November,  
2000*

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*The main highlights of another busy period for the Red Cross and Red Crescent operation in Turkey included a visit to the earthquake zone by the President of the Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS) and a meeting in Ankara of Participating National Societies (PNS), hosted by the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS). Meanwhile work in support of earthquake victims across a range of activities - health, water-sanitation, psycho-social support, and construction continues.*

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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***

On 4 October, at 5h34 western Turkey experienced a moderate earthquake measuring 4.7 on the Richter scale, centred near the city of Denizli. According to media reports, thousands of people, motivated by fear, ran from their houses and 26 people were treated for injuries caused by jumping from windows or balconies.

At the start of October, the JRCS President and the Society's Head of International Relations undertook a five day visit to Turkey. The JRCS has contributed more than CHF 30 million to the International Federation appeal in cash, kind and services. Throughout his visit, the JRCS President was accompanied by the TRCS President and the International Federation's Head of Delegation in Turkey. An intense programme included meetings with the Turkish Prime Minister and the country's former President. On-site visits were made to JRCS funded reconstruction projects in the earthquake affected communities. The JRCS President was also present at a ceremony to mark the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the reconstruction of two schools in Bolu, visited a tent city funded by the Spanish Red Cross, attended a ground breaking ceremony for the Derince school in Izmit and visited the Kocaeli University Hospital, which has benefited from JRCS funding. Throughout his stay, the JRCS President was warmly received by the TRCS, local authorities, and in particular community members who expressed their appreciation for the reconstruction projects which have been made possible by the generosity of the people of Japan, through the JRCS.

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

*PNS Meeting:* Representatives from the TRCS, nine Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation met in Ankara for a two day meeting at the end of September. Discussions focused on a document prepared by the TRCS, with support from the American Red Cross (ARC), 'Enhancing Service Delivery Capacities'. The meeting, which was jointly chaired by TRCS President and the International Federation's Head of Delegation, covered the current TRCS restructuring process, the disaster response preparedness and management (DRPM) initiative and updates on other issues.

Plans and projects proposed, as reflected in the document produced for the meeting, covered: TRCS relief stocks replenishment (targeting 300,000 people by the end of 2001); construction of a large warehouse in Adapazari with an automated logistics system and computer networks; renovation of existing warehouses located throughout the earthquake zone; upgrading of TRCS blood services; creation of a crisis communication system; setting up rescue teams and delivering comprehensive first aid training packages; training and recruitment of Red Cross and Red Crescent volunteers; and the restructuring and reorganisation of 48 TRCS branches, which was highlighted as a priority.

*DRPM:* The ARC continues its support to TRCS in designing the DRPM model, including developing training methods and systems, research and technical programmes and the implementation of TRCS information systems. Analysis and planning, in collaboration with the TRCS, continues on the development of a volunteer system and an emergency operations centre (EOC). The ARC is also arranging for TRCS staff to visit ARC headquarters and branches and thus gain further background information about alternative models for the EOC and volunteer system development and other initiatives within DRPM.

During the review period, the German Red Cross (GRC) conducted courses in disaster preparedness and field hospital training. The GRC is expanding its role in DRPM and is funding the pilot phase of the TRCS automation project.

*Logistics:* The ARC is assisting the TRCS with the replenishment of stocks of winter tents and response materials and equipment. ARC is also working with TRCS on evaluating tent-production facilities aimed at improving efficiency. The GRC is assisting the TRCS with canvas procurement for tents, the rehabilitation of eight water purification units and software training. The Spanish Red Cross is supporting the TRCS blood programme by donating four mobile blood units scheduled to arrive this month.

*Social welfare:* The Canadian Red Cross is financing the construction of a 600 square-metre multipurpose social hall in the village of Kaynasli in the Bolu/Düzce region. The facility will have

classroom space for ongoing workshops, a library, a day care centre, computer room, small kitchen and common space which can be used for social gatherings, movies or cultural events. Construction of the centre will begin once the MOU between the TRCS, the International Federation and local authorities is finalised.

Meanwhile, plans for the construction of two 300 square-metre multipurpose social halls in Düzce and in the Marmara region are moving ahead. An asphalt covered sports ground is under construction in Yalova. In early October, the GRC opened a playground in a tent city at Kullar.

*Health:* A one week workshop on first aid training standardisation, organised by the Spanish Red Cross and the TRCS, was held in Ankara in mid September. Participants worked together to prepare a standardised first-aid training programme and training materials. The Spanish Red Cross version of the 'Train the Trainers' manual was translated into Turkish for use during this meeting, and was used as a basis for the materials developed during the workshop. The meeting was facilitated by a first aid specialist from the Spanish Red Cross; two pilot projects are due to begin this month.

On 23 September the French Red Cross (FRC) in cooperation with the TRCS and the Turkish health ministry started work on a hospital in Gölcük. Among those attending the stone-laying ceremony were the French ambassador, the health minister, the governor of Kocaeli and senior officials from the TRCS and International Federation. The FRC is also supervising the installation of oxygen supply networks for the hospital

The GRC continues its support to outpatient treatment in Yeniköy hospital managed by TRCS, physiotherapy at Kocaeli University hospital and the supply of medical equipment to health facilities in Gölcük area. Construction of a multifunctional health centre is underway in Duzce, funded by the Italian Red Cross (IRC), with completion expected at the start of next year.

*Psycho-social support:* The GRC psycho-social programme continues to benefit both the caregivers and the victims in the Kocaeli/Izmit and Bolu/Düzce areas. A team of five psychologists facilitate 'care for caregivers' workshops, targeting local doctors, nurses, teachers, police and army officers. Daily counselling is available for earthquake victims on an individual basis, or in groups. Training and counselling take place through outreach programmes and from the TRCS Yeniköy health and training centre, which handles approximately 750 outpatients per week.

The International Federation continues to develop its programmes in Avcilar, Izmit and Düzce. The number of people requesting counselling services in Avcilar has increased, and programme coordinators are working with volunteers to organise additional services. A youth group has been formed and holds weekly meetings to discuss issues and plan community activities. A three-day training module for volunteers was held in Assos in mid September. The centre's social worker completed a training programme on working with mothers' of pre-school age children: a group of parents have now been identified to participate in a two year programme focusing on the special needs of raising young children.

Training sessions were held during the first and third week of September in Izmit. At the end of September, staff and volunteers began moving into Izmit's new permanent psycho-social centre which will officially open in November. Work is underway in Düzce to create a core group of volunteers to staff the psycho-social centre. Community leaders are being recruited to assist with developing and implementing community based projects. At the end of September the first module of psycho-social training was held in Düzce. Meanwhile, the search continues for a permanent location for a psycho-social centre in this district - extensive earthquake-related damage has made it difficult to find a permanent location for this much needed facility.

*Water-sanitation:* Work on the Kandira water pipeline, funded by the Swiss Red Cross through the International Federation, began at the end of September. The pipeline, which services 34,000 people

and is located 50 km north of the Izmit municipality, was severely damaged during the earthquake and is currently functioning at only 50 per cent of its capacity. The project is due for completion in the first quarter of next year.

*Construction:* The IRC has commenced construction of the ECHO funded health centre for women and children in Düzce. The Spanish Red Cross is in the final phases of the construction of a school in Adapazari, the SSK hospital and polyclinics in Karamürsel and a health centre in Kaynasli.

Plans are well advanced for the construction of new TRCS branches in Gölcük and Düzce and a new regional blood bank in Istanbul, all funded by GRC. Meanwhile, during the final week of September GRC also commenced the construction of the Bolu state hospital.

Following an evaluation made in cooperation with the TRCS, PNS and the International Federation, the FRC has announced plans to build a training centre. Sites under consideration include Ankara, Istanbul and Sakarya. Construction of the Paris primary school in Akyazi is nearing completion, an opening ceremony for the school has been scheduled for mid November.

On 3 October, the ground breaking ceremony took place for the construction of 204 apartments in Kocaeli, as the first phase of a project funded through the Iraqi Red Crescent. The development will be implemented by the TRCS and the Governor's office in Kocaeli and also includes the installation of household fixtures.

During the review period, MOUs were signed between the International Federation, TRCS and the local education authority for the construction of five schools in the earthquake zone. Construction on a school in Derince, which had been halted due to funding shortages, will be continued under the auspices of the International Federation. Renovations will be made to a school in Macarlar, and new schools will be built in Inkilap, Cubuklu and Samat. Weather permitting building will continue during the winter and construction of the schools will finish by the end of next year. The International Federation is also working with health ministry on the tendering process for the renovation of a hospital in Kandira, and is drawing up the designs for the hospitals to be built in Sakarya and Düzce.

*Education/Training:* During the review period, the Swiss Red Cross began a training programme intended to strengthen the social competence of the managers of 53 prefabricated settlements. Courses are being held in organisation, communications, conflict resolution and security. A second programme, which is currently benefiting 400 people living in the prefabricated settlement in Kocaeli, offers training in computer literacy, English, Turkish, office management, and accounting.

GRC support for a school in Karamürsel for the deaf and dumb has continued with the provision of a fully equipped kitchen, laundry facilities, a playground and a bus. During the first week of October, the GRC furnished 145 classrooms throughout the earthquake zone and is also undertaking the construction of double storey classrooms in Karaköprü. Meanwhile, the Spanish Red Cross is providing sufficient furniture for 125 classrooms in prefabricated schools in Kocaeli.

In coordination with the training initiatives sponsored by sister Societies, ARC will provide support for the implementation of a medium-term training programme focused on building skills for immediate disaster response planning and management across multiple levels within TRCS.

*Telecommunications:* The International Federation and the ARC continue to support TRCS with the implementation of a crisis communications enhancement plan. The tendering process for planned communications systems will begin shortly.

## ***Contributions***

See Annex 1 for details

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