

TURKEY: CO-OPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETY

27 October 1998

appeal no. 01.38/98

situation report no. 1

period covered: January - September 1998

The International Federation has continued to assist the Turkish Red Crescent Society in developing traditional RC activities such as disaster preparedness, blood, youth, and first aid through its Representation office based in Ankara.

The context

During the period between January - September 1998 the International Federation's Representation in Turkey continued its activities with the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS) with increasingly efficient co-operation. The TRCS is becoming more and more interested in getting assistance from the International Federation in development of RC activities such as Disaster Preparedness (DPP), First Aid, and Blood.

The TRCS has a significant place among the member National Societies as Turkey is strategically located between Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia. The TRCS has great potential to become a donor and to contribute to the International Federation's operations, both in terms of finance and skilled staff.

Latest events

Two major disasters which occurred in 1998 (a flood disaster in the Black Sea Region in May and an earthquake in the Southern Anatolia region in June) showed the need for urgent implementation of DPP programmes in Turkey. The representative from the Federation held several meetings with the President and the Secretary General of TRCS to discuss the issues including the dissemination of RC/RC principles. The Representative also had a number meetings with the Director of First Aid Programme.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Disaster Preparedness •

Turkey is a disaster prone country and TRCS has great practical experience with managing emergency relief operations. According to statistics, a large scale national disaster happens every seven to eight years. Because of the frequency of natural disasters and the need for a quick response, the TRCS established a Central Warehouse in Ankara and seven others throughout the country.

The TRCS has the capacity to react to natural or man-made disasters within the national territory within 24 hours. Whatever is the nature of a disaster, all activities are regulated by the government (the governor of the region affected) and tasks assigned to different implementing partners, such as the Civil Defence, the Army, TRCS, etc.

The TRCS has an impressive response capacity, due to its imposing trucks fleet, its easy access to cargo air craft and warehouses full of tents, mobile kitchens, blankets, etc. Moreover, TRCS can procure in-country any kind of relief good to support up to 100.000 people for one month. A *Crisis Desk* at the TRCS General Headquarters, in co-ordination with the Prime Ministry Crisis Administration Centre, is immediately set up in case of major disasters

After the devastating earthquake in Adana, Southern Anatolia, the International Federation launched a programme to increase the disaster response capacity of the TRCS. The programme funded by ECHO covers a budget of ECU 500,000. The objectives are to enhance the capacity building of the TRCS and procure relief stocks for similar disasters in the future. The relief items which will be procured include: 10,000 blankets; 1,700 9 m² tents; 1,500 12 m² tents; 2 mobile kitchens; and 2 mobile generators.

Psychological support to the victims of a disaster is usually handled by the Ministry of Health. After the Adana earthquake, 15 Red Cross teams visited the people affected by the disaster to provide health services as well as psychological support. Although the TRCS makes every effort to meet the basic needs of the victims more organised efforts are now needed to include psychological support to disaster victims.

Blood •

In a country with a very high number of traffic accidents and natural disasters (floods and earthquakes) the need for blood is always urgent. Presently, the country relies on procured rather than donated blood products. The development of a blood programme by the TRCS will provide a valuable income generating activity.

Construction of a new Plasma Fractionation Plant in Ankara is continuing, with production planned to begin at year's end.

Therefore, the TRCS is willing to implement a Blood Programme immediately. The Federation and TRCS will identify the needs for adequately equipping the Blood Centres.

Youth •

Youth activities have been also discussed with some branches willing to exchange experiences with other RC Societies. Twinning with other RC branches has been suggested during several meetings with the Bayrampasha Branch and Pendik Branch in Istanbul. These Branches are the best in Turkey for their Dispensaries and revenues. They are aware of the fact that branch twinning will contribute to their development by exchange of knowledge and information.

The Representation of the International Federation provided assistance for this purpose by starting the correspondence with TRCS and other National Societies. As a first step, branch profile of TRCS Bayrampasha Branch was sent to a number of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies emphasising the desire of the branch for co-operation. The Bulgarian Red Cross branch in Plovdiv and Hungarian Red Cross branch in Csongrad sent letters to the Representation seeking to establish co-operation with TRCS. The Bayrampasha Branch is planning a visit to the Bulgarian Red Cross in near future. In September TRCS informed the Representation that they established a twinning relationship with Macedonian Red Cross. Italian Red Cross also wishes to develop co-operation with TRCS on First Aid, Blood, and youth activities.

Exchange of youth people and some guidance on RC dissemination with youth is strongly recommended. The TRCS can afford to host youth from other countries in its summer camps, but may need some specialised leaders.

First Aid •

The First Aid Programme is one of the most urgent programmes and has seen already much inputs from the International Federation. During the last three months several meetings were held with the Director of the TRCS' First Aid Programme. Although very enthusiastic about implementation of the programme in Turkey, the Director expressed the need for organisational support of TRCS to develop a systematic attitude to carry out the task. The related Directorate is studying on some revisions in the First Aid Curriculum which is currently being used by TRCS. In this context, much more attention will be paid to the dissemination of the RC/RC principles by adding information about the Movement into the curriculum. The Representation has been providing technical support to TRCS in updating its First Aid Curriculum.

Delegate Training Courses •

A new programme aimed to facilitate the access of human resources from ONS or non traditional sources to international missions has been proposed by Geneva. This gives the Regional Delegations and the Turkey Representation the task to pre-select candidates for Basic Training Courses. The TRCS has been duly informed and expressed its interest to host the next regional BTC in Istanbul. However, the poor knowledge of English by potential TRCS candidates, makes the setting up of the next BTC unlikely in the near future. Also, the Representation in Ankara is responsible for the pre selection of candidates from the Caucasus (Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia). Co-ordination with the Federation Delegations in Tbilisi, Baku and Erevan is ensured and relevant information shared.

In order to practice the standard interview techniques to be applied during the selection of candidates for a BTC, a Regional Training Workshop on Pre-screening and Assessment of Candidates for Basic Delegate Training Courses will be organised in Istanbul by the International Federation's Representative between 24-26 November 1998. The participants will be the Head of Delegations and two representatives of the National Societies from the Caucasus Region - Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia - as well as Turkey.

Outstanding needs

Further contributions are required to meet the objectives of this Appeal.

External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media

Relations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Public Works are very good. The Federation enjoys a good reputation.

The exchanges between the Federation and the UN agencies are friendly and constructive. The UNHCR Representative has always included the International Federation in every important meeting and requested input. The Federation has signed a tripartite Agreement with UNHCR and TRCS for the

support of the Dispensary that provides health services to refugees from Bosnia. The Dispensary is in Istanbul and run by the Bayrampasha Branch.

The ICRC shares some space in the Federation offices and contributes to the funding of the Representation. Relations with the ICRC Delegate are excellent.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

Conclusion

The Representation of the International Federation enjoys excellent co-operation with the TRCS and will continue to support the National Society in development of traditional RC activities.

Peter Rees-Gildea
 Director
 Operations Funding and
 Reporting Department

Renny Nancholas
 Director
 Europe Department

TURKEY

ANNEX 1

APPEAL No. 01.38/98

PLEDGES RECEIVED

27/10/98

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
-------	----------	----------	------	-----------	------	---------

CASH

REQUESTED IN APPEAL----->	310,000	
GERMAN - RC	50,000 DEM	40,625 09/04/98
ICELANDIC - RC	200,000 ISK	4,164 04/08/98 EARTHQUAKE
ICELANDIC - RC	200,000 ISK	4,149 01/04/98
POLISH - RC	1,000 USD	1,500 09/07/98 EARTHQUAKE
ICRC		50,000 18/09/98
PRIVATE DONORS		200.00 14/07/98
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH		100,638 CHF

KIND AND SERVICES (INCL. PERSONNEL)

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Italy	Delegates			57,448	31/03/98	Estimated contribution
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				57,448 CHF		

NOT REQUESTED IN APPEAL

DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0.00 CHF		