

TURKEY

CO-OPERATION, CAPACITY BUILDING

CHF 299,000

Programme no 01.43/99

The Context

Turkey is strategically positioned at the cross-roads between disaster-prone regions of Europe, Asia and the Arab Peninsula. Every year the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS) provides assistance to people affected by earthquakes and floods. The TRCS has many resources, such as hotels and mineral water bottling plants. Potentially, it could become a major Participating National Society.

The Operation

In 1999, the Federation will continue to maintain its representative office in Turkey both to assist the National Society in the development of its national and international activities, and to liaise between the Federation, UN agencies, and the Turkish authorities.

Objectives of the Operation

- To assist the Turkish Red Crescent Society to increase its involvement in international activities and provide support to neighbouring countries.
- To strengthen TRCS programmes through technical support, so that it is better able to respond to disasters and to assist the most vulnerable.

Plan of Action

- In 1999, the Federation will assist TRCS to become a more active Participating National Society, increasing its co-operation with other National Societies in the region and increasing its response to Emergency Appeals.
- The Federation will continue to provide technical support to TRCS programmes: First Aid, Blood, Youth, Branch Development, Disaster Preparedness and Relief programmes. The Federation will assist TRCS to achieve a more effective implementation of traditional Red Cross/Red Crescent activities. It will also

co-ordinate the assistance of other National Societies to TRCS programmes. This includes twinning arrangements and exchange visits. Blood donation and the upgrading of existing blood centres will be a priority to help the TRCS to achieve full autonomy in procurement and treatment of plasma. In branch development, the TRCS aims to increase the number of active branches, especially in disaster-prone areas.

Resource Planning

The funds requested in this appeal are for the running costs of the Federation office in Turkey and technical assistance to TRCS. The National Society has funds to cover programme costs.

Capacity

- The Operating National Society

The Turkish Red Crescent Society, with its 658 branches and large financial resources, has the capacity to carry out traditional Red Crescent activities, provided the Federation can provide necessary technical input. In addition, the TRCS has the resources to enable it to become an active Federation partner internationally.

- The Federation

The Federation will continue to maintain its office in Ankara throughout 1999, with one Federation Representative in post.

Co-operation

The Federation will continue to collaborate closely with the ICRC, and will continue to provide office facilities in Ankara for the ICRC. In addition, co-operation continues with the government and UN agencies present in Turkey.