

TURKEY: CO-OPERATION, CAPACITY BUILDING

29 July 1999

Appeal no. 01.43/99; Appeal Closed.

Situation report no.1

Period covered: January - June 1999

Due to financial considerations, the Federation has proceeded with its decision taken at the end of 1998 to close its Representative Office in Turkey. However, close cooperation with the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS) will continue, as well as efforts to encourage the TRCS to become an increasingly active Participating National Society. This Appeal is now closed.

Description of the Appeal

The Federation had made plans in late 1998 to maintain its Representation Office in Turkey, pursuing two main objectives:

- { to assist the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS) to increase its involvement in international activities and its co-operation with other neighbouring National Societies in the region; and
- { to assist in the strengthening of TRCS programmes (First Aid, Blood, Youth, Branch Development, Disaster Preparedness and Relief Programmes) through technical support, so that TRCS is better able to respond to disasters and to assist the most vulnerable.

Implementation

At the end of 1998 (after the launch of the 1999 Appeal) a decision was made to close the Federation Representation Office in Turkey at the end of March 1999, in large measure due to financial constraints. During the first three months of 1999, Federation activities were therefore primarily focused on arranging the closure of the Representation Office, and little progress was made on the overall objectives.

Meetings were held with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and TRCS concerning the continuity of the Federation's status agreement in Turkey, once the Representation Office closed.

The procurement process under ECHO Contract ECHO/TUR/210/1998/01001, for the Adana Earthquake in June 1998, continued. The procurement of generators, 2 mobile kitchens and 10,000 blankets was completed and all the items were delivered to the TRCS Etimesgut warehouse, to replenish their relief stocks. The procurement of 2,550 tents was completed in March, and the tents were due to arrive in Turkey in April.

The files in the Representation Office were sorted, the main files transferred to Geneva. Two vehicles were donated to the TRCS, as well as other equipment and publications.

Problems and Constraints

At the end of 1998, the Turkey Representation Office was already running in deficit, and in 1999 there were no new funding contributions, thus the decision was made to close the office. The main objective of the Federation was to encourage the TRCS to become an increasingly active Participating National Society; however, this aim has had limited success due to differing goals and objectives. The TRCS, however, has great potential to become a strong partner within the Federation, and long-term collaboration will be encouraged in order to keep dialogue open and to find common ground on future Red Cross activities.

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