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Information bulletin Turkey: Mine accident

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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Turkish Red Crescent response teams at the site of the coalmine in Soma. TRC has provided warm soups, food, blankets and psychosocial support to the families who are waiting for news about their families. *Photo: TRC*

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. In line with Turkish Government assessment, The Turkish Red Crescent, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

[<click here for detailed contact information>](#)

Immediately after the mine explosion in Soma, Turkey, the Turkish Red Crescent is focusing on operational support, food assistance and psychosocial support (PSS) for the rescue workers and families in the target area. 51 experts and 11 vehicles from the Turkish Red Crescent's National Disaster Management are in the field to support the rescue operation.

The situation

An explosion and a fire killed at least 201 workers at a coal mine in western Turkey and hundreds more remain trapped underground, government officials said. According to the Turkish Energy Minister, 787 people were inside the coal mine in Soma at the time of the accident. At least 80 miners were injured, including four in serious condition. More than 400 rescuers are racing to save the people trapped in the mine, which is located about 155 miles from Istanbul. Authorities say the disaster followed an explosion and fire caused by a power-distribution unit. Most of the deaths were the result of carbon monoxide poisoning.

A television footage showed people cheering and applauding as some trapped workers emerged from of the mine, helped by rescuers, their faces and hard-hats covered in soot. The rescue effort was being hampered by the fact that the mine was made up of tunnels that stretch across several miles.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Government-led search and rescue activities continue in Soma, where many miners lost their lives this morning, 14 May. 51 response experts and 11 vehicles from the National Disaster Management, the Aegean Region Disaster Management Centre, the Manisa Blood Centre, the Western Black Sea Region Disaster Management Centre, the Marmara Region Disaster Management Centre, the Mediterranean Regional Disaster Management Centre, the Northeast Anatolia Regional Disaster Management Centre, as well as the Manisa and Soma Branches try to meet the needs of miners, their relatives and the teams that perform the rescue activities. Food rations, water, juices, cakes, soup, bread, tea, pita bread, buttermilk and blankets are being distributed in seven multipurpose tents pitched in the field by Turkish Red Crescent (TRC).

The TRC team that continues its services in the field, has also completed the construction of two multipurpose tents in Kırkağaç district in order to give medical and other humanitarian services. There will be hot-meal distribution by mobile kitchens and mobile catering vehicles, as soon as they reach the region.

A team of 20 psychologists and social workers, along with the Members of Disaster Psychosocial Services Union from TCR are giving psychosocial support services to the families waiting for their relatives to get rescued.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.