

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Information bulletin Turkey: Mine accident

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information Bulletin TR- n° 2 23 May 2014



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. 53 experts, 100 volunteers and 11 vehicles from the Turkish Red Crescent's National Disaster Management are in the field to support the rescue operation.

The situation

On 14 May 2014, an explosion and a fire broke out at a coal mine in western Turkey, located about 155 miles from Istanbul. According to the Turkish Energy Minister, 787 people were inside the coal mine in Soma at the time of the accident. Over 400 rescuers, led by the Prime Minister Presidency for Disaster and Emergencies (AFAD), raced to save the people trapped in the mine, while families gathered around the district waiting news of their relatives. Official figures reported the death of 301 workers in the incident, most of them due carbon monoxide poisoning. One week after the incident, families of the victims and mine personnel continue receiving psychosocial support coordinated by the Turkish Red Crescent.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Following the mine explosion in Soma district (Manisa province), the Turkish Red Crescent deployed a 153 strong team that included 53 response experts, psychologists and social services professionals as well as 100 more people composed of members of branches and volunteers.

Relief Distribution: Food and Non-food Items

Twenty four hours a day, the Turkish Red Crescent teams was covering the basic food needs of miners, relatives and of search and rescue, health and security teams working in the field. The Turkish Red Crescent also mobilized a total of 11 vehicles (1 mobile kitchen, 2 pioneer vehicles, 2 catering vehicles, 3 pickups, 2 lorries and 1 truck). 17 general tents were used for the distribution of food packets, hot meal, biscuits, pastries, water, fruit juice, cake, soup, bread, tea, various food and blankets.

Psychosocial Support

The Turkish Red Crescent also aimed at the psychosocial welfare of miners and their relatives. The Turkish Red Crescent is coordinating the action of 20 teams composed by a psychologist, a social services professional and a psychiatrist. The members of the teams are volunteers from the Turkish Psychiatry Association, the Turkish Social Services Professionals Association, the Psychologists Associations, the Child Mental Health Association and the Turkish Psychological and Guidance Association. During home visits and field sessions, the teams shared with the families messages on how to cope with pain and loss. Special psychosocial support was provided to children, and teachers at schools were also informed on how to support mourning children.

As search and rescue mission has finished and the disaster support operation is downscaling, the psychosocial support team continues to provide attention to the families.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Turkey:** Javier Ormeno, IFRC Reporting and Communications Delegate, phone: +90 535 234 7147 email: javier.ormeno@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Zone:** Alberto Monguzzi, Disaster Management Coordinator, IFRC Europe Zone, Budapest, phone: +36 1 8884 505, email alberto.monguzzi@ifrc.org
- **In Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Support, phone: +41.22.730.4529, email: christine.south@ifrc.org

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.

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives, changing minds.



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.
-