

TURKEY: EARTHQUAKE

7 September 1999

appeal no. 19/99

situation report no. 12

period covered: 4-7 September

Having already set up five tent settlements in the disaster area, the Turkish Red Crescent Society has now been requested to manage all the established tent settlements and is currently preparing to carry out this responsibility. The Red Cross Red Crescent Emergency Response Units (ERUs) continue to have a significant impact in providing essential health and water assistance to thousands of earthquake survivors. The International Federation's further appeal for resources to support Red Cross Red Crescent activities in the wake of the disaster will be launched tomorrow (Wednesday).

The context

On 17 August at 03h02 local time a massive earthquake measuring between 7.4 and 7.8 on the Richter scale and lasting 45 seconds hit north-western Turkey. Hundreds of aftershocks have since been reported, some exceeding five on the Richter scale. Izmit, an industrial city of one million in western Turkey, was nearest the epicentre. But the force of the tremor was felt as far away as Ankara, the capital, some 500 km to the east, and across parts of the Balkans. Geophysicists described the quake as one of the most powerful this century, nearly rivalling the 7.9 magnitude earthquake that devastated San Francisco in 1906.

The Turkish government declared a state of emergency and requested international assistance. The International Federation first issued an Alert on 17 August, and at the request of the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS) followed up by launching a Preliminary Appeal to support the Society's emergency relief operation. A further appeal, covering plans and proposals for the period September 1999 through April 2000 - including components for shelter, relief and health/water-sanitation assistance, rehabilitation and social welfare and disaster preparedness - will be launched tomorrow (Wednesday).

Update

Since the quake struck on 17 August, a total of 2,391 aftershocks have occurred, some exceeding five on the Richter scale. The latest official reports put the confirmed death toll at 15,135 and 23,983 persons injured (as of 6 September). Following is a detailed breakdown:

Province	Dead	Injured
Bolu	264	1,163
Bursa	253	348
Eskisehir	85	95

Kocaeli/Izmit*	4,083	4,149
Golchuk	4,337	5,064
Sakarya/Adapazari	2,627	5,084
Tekirdag	--	35
Yalova	2,495	4,472
Zonguldak	3	26
TOTALS	15,135	23,983

The National Crisis Centre has assigned the TRCS to manage and maintain tent settlements for those made homeless by the earthquake. It is expected that the numerous smaller clusters of tents will be consolidated and all-weather tents will be provided to all families residing in the tent settlements.

The National Crisis Centre has announced that 50,000 prefabricated homes will be constructed in the region, and has met with construction industry representatives to designate location and develop infrastructure. Studies for a community of 750 prefabricated homes for the province of Kocaeli (Izmit) have been completed, and more are underway. The General Directorate of Disaster Affairs has started to manufacture prefabricated housing, with kitchen units, foundations and roofing underway. Several foreign governments have offered donations of prefabricated housing for quake victims. A massive shelter effort is already underway, but will not be completed before winter weather sets in.

According to local media reports, the state minister responsible for exports has indicated that the Marmara quake will not have as serious an affect on industrial production as first feared. He emphasised that big industrial companies have not been greatly affected by the quake and that work to recover has started already. Small and medium sized companies particularly in Adapazari, Yalova and Gölchük have been damaged more by the quake. Many of these companies will be able to start production in three months with the support of planned government programmes.

The National Crisis Centre has also announced that the World Food Programme is performing an assessment study to determine food assistance needs.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Turkish Red Crescent w

The TRCS has currently established five tent cities to accommodate up to 25,000 homeless and provided hot meals and drinking water in these camps and across the quake area through mobile kitchen facilities. Spontaneous donations of relief goods by the Turkish public have helped the relief effort tremendously, particularly in the first days of the disaster. The TRCS is now making preparations to manage the tent settlements over the coming months and through the vital winter period.

Health w

The 120-bed Norwegian Emergency Response Unit (ERU) field hospital has now been operational in Izmit for over two weeks and reports no major problems. Twenty-two doctors, nurses and technicians have carried out a total of 26 surgical operations (five of them major) and have been treating an average of 29 in-patients each day. The number of out-patient consultations is increasing and on several occasions, staff from the hospital have been called to assist in emergency situations for both surgical and medical patients.

Co-ordination meetings with the directors and administration of the nearby Kocaeli and University hospitals continue. Both hospitals have expressed the need for hospital beds (postoperative, for internal medicine, and neurology) for the next three months. The hospitals have not been able to open clinics or operating theatres, due to the recurring aftershocks. The integration process with Kocaeli hospital is

proceeding in a positive direction and many constructive steps have been taken to involve fully, Turkish medical personnel into the Norwegian field hospital.

There have been almost daily visits by senior representatives of the local TRCS branch and good cooperation. The TRCS Izmit branch collected 3,000 blankets from the field hospital stores and distributed them to needy families. (27 August - 3 September)

Water and Sanitation w

The Austrian Red Cross (ARC) has assigned an ERU to provide potable water and sanitation services in the Gölchük area. The unit can supply up to 20,000 persons with water and cover basic sanitation needs. The programme is being implemented with full co-operation from both the TRCS and the local municipal crisis committee. Trucks from the municipality of Gölchük have been receiving water from 31 August, as well as trucks from the surrounding villages, fire brigades and other different organisations which have arrived to work in the surrounding region. Water production and distribution have been increasing, with the following recent results registered:

Water production:

{ 30 August - 85 cubic metres.

{ 31 August - 90 cubic metres.

{ 1 September - 100 cubic metres.

Water distribution:

{ 31 August - 70 cubic metres.

{ 1 September - 95 cubic metres.

Despite the increased capacity, inadequate delivery systems have resulted in an irregular schedule of water tanker trucks, and the water plant not running at full capacity. The ARC team will focus on organising the delivery routes so that more water can reach those who need it in areas outside of tent settlements.

Some tent settlements have efficient water systems, others are dependent on donations of bottled water, and an important part of the work of the ARC team is to establish water distribution systems (tapstands and bladder tanks) which are regularly filled from trucks. Water tanks and tapstands were erected in four tent settlements and the work is now expanding to others.

The sanitation situation in the tent settlements has improved on a daily basis, and there are very few camps left without viable sanitation systems. The special sanitation team will focus on ensuring that the remaining needs are met.

Oxfam has donated much needed water equipment to Turkey (tanks, tapstands, sanitation material), which has been of enormous benefit to the earthquake survivors. Two Oxfam technicians continue to work with the ARC team carrying out assessments and building distribution systems.

PNS activity w

The United Arab Emirates Red Crescent Society will send four flights containing relief goods (tents, blankets and medicines) shortly. Two shipments have already been received, accompanied by a senior representative of the National Society, who oversaw distribution of aid to earthquake victims living in TRCS tent settlements in Yalova.

Outstanding needs

A list of needs will be reflected in the full appeal due to be launched on Wednesday, 8 September.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

Peter Rees-Gildea
Director
Operations Funding and Reporting Department

Renny Nancholas
Director
Europe Department