

TURKEY: EARTHQUAKE

10 September 1999

appeal no. 19/99

situation report no. 13

period covered: 8-10 September, 1999

Federation delegates, a Turkish Red Crescent liaison officer and representatives of ECHO and the American Red Cross flew by helicopter over the earthquake affected areas to assess the deployment of tent settlements. This information will be combined with mapping and database analysis to develop logistical operations. The Turkish Red Crescent is working with authorities to complete several "mega-camps" which will become home to thousands of homeless families after consolidation of smaller tent settlements begins.

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-- was launched on 8 September.

Update

Latest official reports put the confirmed death toll at 15,370 and more than 23,954 injured.

The Prime Minister's Crisis Administration Centre (PMCAC) reports that a total of 139 tent settlements, including 22 in Kocaeli, 37 in Sakarya, 14 in Yalova, 22 in Gölcük, and 44 in Bolu, have been set up as of 9 September. The PMCAC statement also indicated that a total of 126,664 people are

settled in 99,651 tents in these sites. The PMCAC report emphasised that the infrastructure works in the tent-sites continue, and the statement noted that a total of 1,774 mobile showers, 1,449 mobile toilets, five laundries, 85,000 beds, and 140,000 blankets are current needs of the disaster zone.

Taking into account donations of prefabricated housing from foreign countries and domestic organisations, a total of 40,000 transitory prefabricated huts are planned to be constructed in the disaster zone. Construction companies will build 500 huts (each 30 square meters) a month, supervised and monitored by the Public Works and Settlement Ministry.

The World Bank announced on Tuesday that it was preparing a loan package of over \$1 billion for Turkey's earthquake reconstruction efforts. The loan package will take the form of \$300 million in re-allocations from existing loans to Turkey and up to \$750 million in new long-term loans, which would be committed over the next three months. The bank is working with other international agencies and countries that could offer bilateral assistance, to ensure that remaining costs are financed. The World Bank will also assist and advise the Turkish government as it works to improve the system for enforcement of building codes, insurance and overall emergency response.

The Turkish Realtors Association said that many of those affected by the earthquake have decided to look for new houses. The demand for rented apartments has also grown, with rents increasing by as much as 50%. As a result, lower income families are having more difficulty moving away from the earthquake region.

Red Cross/Red Crescent action

Turkish Red Crescent •

The TRCS has made contact with various countries for the purchase of 20,000 all-weather tents, to be sent to the earthquake region as soon as possible to replace the tents which were set up temporarily in the days following the earthquake. A larger settlement of 5,000 tents is being set up in an area adjacent to the German Red Cross (GRC) field hospital near Gölcük. Construction is planned to be completed in 10 days. This is one of several "mega-camps" which will be home to thousands of homeless families after consolidation of smaller tent settlements begins.

Medical •

At the GRC field hospital during the 30 August to 5 September period, eight babies, including twins, were delivered, 801 out-patients were treated, and there was an average of 35 patients staying in the hospital. There were 100 patients treated for trauma, 99 for respiratory infections, 51 for gynaecology or obstetrics, 45 for gastro-intestinal ailments and 42 for psychological trauma. Altogether 27 operations have been performed, 10 of them were major interventions. Since the hospital started functioning on 23 August, 1,460 persons have been treated as out-patients. An EKG heart monitor and ultrasound equipment arrived for use in treating patients in the internal medicine department.

The three representatives of the Macedonia Red Cross left this week after providing essential support to construct the field hospital. The Turkish military provided heavy equipment and helped construct latrines and showers. The TRCS is facilitating the local purchase of those types of goods which had initially been procured and/or flown in internationally.

Logistics •

Federation delegates, a TRCS liaison officer, and representatives of ECHO and the American Red Cross flew by helicopter over the earthquake affected areas to assess the deployment of settlements. The large tent settlements managed by the TRCS and the governmental crisis centres were photographed along with numerous smaller tent settlements. This information will be combined with mapping and database analysis to develop logistical operations.

Ground preparation, grading, drainage and other infrastructure construction were evident in TRCS camps and other larger camps. At this point, most tents are not the all-weather design which will be

required in the coming months. Most of the tents in the larger camp settlements were not occupied, as they are still in the construction stage. There are at least 60 smaller settlements ranging in size from 100-300 tents, and hundreds of clusters of tents near damaged homes and apartment buildings. Camp settlements were set up near several factories and industrial sites, presumably to house employees.

The aerial overview once again provided a shocking visual image of the huge devastation of homes and apartment buildings, where floors of multi-storey apartment buildings were flattened like pancakes. Whole neighbourhoods appeared to be abandoned.

Outstanding needs

Please see the attached table for details of relief items needed, those pledged so far, and what the outstanding needs are. The Federation and TCRS would like to thank all national Societies and the donor community who have responded so rapidly to the appeal.

Contributions

See Annex 1 for details.

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