Turkey · Van Earthquake

Situation Report No. 14
11 November 2011

This report is produced by the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Turkey with inputs from the UN Country Team in Turkey and media reports. It covers the period from 10 November to 11 November, 2011.

I. HIGHLIGHTS

- The Government of Turkey has called for a second international assistance in the form of winterized tents and prefabricated houses to respond to the earthquake which occurred in Van on November 9, 2011.

- Two earthquakes shook Van on November 9, 2011. First one took place at 21:30 at 5.6 magnitude and seven minutes later another tremor with a magnitude of 4.5 hit Van.

- The death toll as a consequence of the November 9 earthquake in Van Province has risen to 22 and number of injured/people rescued under the rubble has amounted to 30.

- The death toll as a consequence of the October 23 earthquake in Van Province has remained at 604.

II. Situation Overview

According to the Turkish Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD), the death toll from the 23 October earthquake in southeast Turkey has remained at 604.

Two earthquakes occurred in Van on November 9, 2011 at 21:30 at 5.6 magnitude and 21:37 at 4.5 magnitude. The epicenter of both the quakes was the village of Edremit district which is 15 kilometers from the eastern province of Van.

Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) announced that as of 7:05 hrs November 11, 2011 there are 25 buildings damaged according to a first rapid assessment. According to AFAD, 30 People were saved and 22 people lost their lives (including a staff member of Japan's Association for Aid and Relief Atsushi Miyazaki) as of 15:30 hrs November 11, 2011. The Government’s search and rescue efforts continue unabated.

Two hotels, Bayram and Aslan Hotels, collapsed and according to reports some people are still under the debris and search and rescue efforts continue. The hotels, apparently weakened by last month’s magnitude-7.2 earthquake, came down Wednesday night when a magnitude-5.6 quake shook the area. Angry residents protested in Van, accusing authorities of failing to properly inspect the buildings following the Oct. 23 quake that killed more than 600 people. Police responded with pepper spray.

OCHA is contacted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for a second call for international assistance. The Ministry have made this appeal in the light of the fact that 600,000 people refuse to go back to their homes and prefer to stay outside after the earthquakes occurred on November 9, 2011. Given the weather conditions people in Van require shelter in order to protect themselves from cold and bad
weather conditions. Rescue group Akut told NTV television that freezing temperatures at night were also posing a threat to any possible survivors.

Turkey's Dogan news agency reported that two of its reporters were missing.

Injured people are dispatched to the hospitals in other cities.

AFAD reported that until 09:30 of 5 November, a total of 2.587 aftershocks had occurred in the affected area; 1.265 of those aftershocks with magnitudes between 2 and 3; 1.080 with magnitudes between 3 and 4; 121 with magnitude between 4 and 5, and 7 shocks with magnitudes between 5 and 6. Authorities have strictly forbidden entry to damaged buildings. Continued concerns after so many aftershocks have reportedly forced many locals to leave towards neighboring villages and accommodate with friends or relatives. Fear is also forcing still many people to continue sleeping in tents outside their habitable houses.

III. National Response

According to the Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management official information (15:30 hrs. 11.11.2011) the following resources have been deployed to emergency areas:

- 44 planes (26 military and 16 THY planes) transported search and rescue teams and medical personnel to Van.
- 815 search and rescue personnel of which 127 are members of NGOs,
- 71 National Medical Rescue teams (UMKE),
- 14 search dogs,
- 62 construction machinery,
- 6,457 tents (including 1,731 tents through international donation)
- 2,051 communal tents
- 200 tent canvases
- 98 breakfast sets
- 45,407 blankets
- 600 mattresses
- 3 air ambulances
- 8 helicopter ambulances
- 11 land ambulances

Search and rescue operations as well as provision of first aid services have been continuing without any interruption. 300 earthquake victims were transferred to Ankara and İstanbul.

Relief assistance for Van is increasing by the day and currently there are three distribution points in the city. Until further notice, all disaster and emergency centers of related Ministries remain on call 24/7.

Shelter
In order to cover the emergency sheltering needs of the affected population, the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS) has dispatched tents, blankets, sleeping bags and heaters in the first phase. Five tent cities and two Mevlana house cities have been established in total, with three tent cities and one Mevlana house city in the Erçiş District of the Van Province, and two tent cities and another Mevlana House City in the Van Province Center.
Additionally, tents and Mevlana houses continue being distributed to people living in the affected villages. TRCS has distributed 27,499 tents and 504 Mevlana Houses and provided shelter for 137,623 beneficiaries as of November 4, 2011. As part of its planned activities, TRCS continues setting up of the Mevlana Houses and is re-establishing the tent city in Van which was established in the first day of the disaster, but later the tents were taken away by the beneficiaries.

**Health**

Turkish health authorities are fully managing the post rescue operations and have not requested any specific international support.

The Ministry of Health (MoH) has finalized the rapid public health assessment and action plan. WHO is in close contact with the Ministry of Health to monitor the health situation and public health needs in the affected area and to provide assistance as needed.

WHO, UNICEF and IOM are coordinating tools with their related ministries for psychosocial support to the affected population. Provision of psycho-social training to teachers and service providers is a priority.

TRCS is providing psychosocial support services for the affected population in Van Province Center and Erciş District by 21 specialists and 5 TRCS staff who have come from different provinces. Psychosocial support services continued to be provided by the specialists of the Society of Turkish Psychologists, Society of Social Service Specialists, the Psychiatric Association of Turkey, Turkish Psychological Counselling and Guidance Association and Youth Mental Health Association of Turkey, all of which are members of the “Union of Psychosocial Services in Disasters” that has been established by TRCS.

For the psychosocial needs assessments, teams are working in the field and in the tent cities. For the psychosocial support requests, information centers have been established and are providing service in the tent cities. In that regard, in the psychosocial support units, established in the Yenişehir Stadium Tent City and Erciş Tent City, one children psychiatrist, two psychiatrists, four psychologists and four social service specialists continue providing services. To date, 30 beneficiaries have been provided with psychosocial response in the Service Tent of the Union of Psychosocial Services in Disasters.

Preparations have also started in order to provide consultation services for the affected population in the schools and universities. Consultations are in progress with the counselor teachers of the Counseling Study Center in the Van Province Center. In Erciş tent cities run by TRCS, play and game activities have been held in the children’s tents. Meanwhile, needs assessments are being conducted in order to register the tent cities. Planned activities will be announced to public with the inclusion of local authorities.

**Volunteering**

Community leaders like teachers and religious leaders, who were trained during the Turkish Red Crescent’s “Organizing the Community Leaders Project”, consisting of 12 teachers, two field delegates, 13 religious leaders, a total number of 27 community leaders continue their activities. The activities include food distributions, cleaning up and psycho-social support in tent cities.

**Food**

Food items have been sent by different sources, including from provinces neighboring Van. As of 4 November, 19,200 beneficiaries continue to be provided with breakfast, lunch and dinner. In addition, meals and hot drinks are being provided with the TRCS Mobile Catering Vehicles in the tent cities and for its workers in the field. As of November 4, 2011, a total of 162,730 plates of food have been distributed.
Water
MoH has warned the earthquake stricken area people to drink only bottled water, as many cases of diarrhea have been detected among the affected population.

Education
Schools remain closed until 5 December and Van University will be closed until January 2012. Media reports indicate that 74 teachers lost their life in the earthquake. In the meantime, the Ministry has assigned 800 new teachers to the area to avoid any setback in the educational system in the region.

In response to a formal request from the Ministry of National Education, UNICEF prioritized interventions in the areas of education and child protection. These efforts will help schoolchildren and children aged 0-5 to regain a sense of normalcy in the aftermath of the emergency. In this context, UNICEF will:

a) procure quality specialized containers to serve as child-friendly temporary classrooms for the earthquake-affected children, thereby allowing them to resume their schooling in a timely, warm and safe manner. The procurement process for the manufacture and delivery of 90 containers adapted for use as 40 classroom units plus ten toilet and washroom units is under way. Meanwhile, locations are being identified with the Ministry of National Education. Accordingly, it is anticipated that all units will be in place before the reopening of schools on 5 December. This will enable up to 1,680 children (or 3,360 in double shifts) to resume their studies in warm, safe learning environments. The units are likely to be needed for 1-2 years.

b) ensure that psychosocial support is provided to all children affected by the emergency, including those who have lost family members and friends. To this end, in close collaboration and coordination with the Ministry of National Education, UNICEF will adapt an existing psychosocial support package jointly developed prior to the earthquake, train teachers to provide psychosocial counseling and support the roll-out of the psychosocial training package and the psychosocial support to children. As a first step, psycho-social support training was to be given to the 237 Guidance and Counselling teachers and the 215 Guidance and Counselling Centre personnel in Van on 10-11 November. However, this activity was called off due to the second fatal earthquake on 9 November. The schedule and locations for this and other activities are under discussion with the Ministry of National Education, bearing in mind the postponement of the return to school and concerns about building safety.

IV. International Assistance
The Government of Turkey has called for international assistance only in terms of tents, prefabricated houses and containers.

AFAD acknowledged the international humanitarian assistance that TRCS has received so far:
- USA Ministry of Foreign Affairs Defense: 2,660 folding beds, 1,380 blankets
- German Red Crescent: 2,500 blankets, 500 tents, 10 heaters
- Belgium Red Crescent: 300 tents
- UNHCR: 1,500 tents, 30,010 blankets
- Finland Red Crescent: 5,000 blankets, 500 tents
- Netherlands Red Cross: 1,000 tents
- Iranian Red Crescent: 500 tents
- Swiss Red Cross: 220 family tents, 1,200 tent heaters, 800 blankets
- Canada: 500 tents

http://www.un.org.tr
• TRNC Red Crescent: 250 blankets, 18 various clothing/food items
• Japanese Red Cross: 23,240 blankets
• Norwegian Red Cross: 16,580 blankets, 355 tents
• Austrians Red Cross: 48 tents, 24 heaters

Other than that, the Iranian Red Crescent has also provided support in assessment and relief teams which remain located and operational in Van. The Iranian Red Crescent has established an operational base at the border of Iran, from where they coordinate work of their teams in Turkey. Other than tents, IRCS has also provided 1,500 blankets and 2,500 ready to eat meals (package of three meals). As for the Syrian Red Crescent, it has provided 40 tons of relief materials, medical supplies in addition to 500 tents.

UNHCR reports that it has donated 4,000 tents, 50,000 blankets, and 10,000 bed mats, which have already been delivered to the Turkish Red Crescent. UNFPA reports that it has donated 250 tents and OCHA reports that it has donated 400 tents. In addition, UNICEF Turkey immediately reallocated $20,000 from its available resources to support the government in developing the response to the needs of girls, boys and women in the region. UNICEF Turkey obtained an emergency loan (EPF) of $900,000 which was approved by UNICEF headquarters on 2 November. UNICEF has also obtained €150,000 from the Dutch National Committee.

Considering the request for international assistance made by the Government following the October 23 earthquake in Van, the UNCT agreed to request CERF funds to partially cover for the resources that were dispatched and for other required resources. In view of the urgency and the immediate need of the affected population, the UNCT submitted a proposal for CERF funding under the rapid response window for four projects as follows:

• UNHCR - Emergency Assistance to Earthquake Victims in Van Earthquake : $ 1,692,740
• UNICEF- Providing safe educational and recreational and psycho-social care for children affected by the Van earthquake : $ 1,109,590
• IOM – Rapid Winter Shelter Assistance and Psycho-social support to Earthquake displaced households in Eastern Turkey : $ 503,542
• WHO - Immediate mental health and psycho social support for affected people in Van earthquake : $ 178,861

These four projects target an overall population of over 25,000 affected people and 296,175 school children and entail funding amounting to $ 3,484,733.

V. Funding

The Government of Turkey has allocated approximately $9,139,784.00 in Emergency Aid Allowance to the Governorship of Van, to respond to urgent needs. Similarly, the General Directorate of Security has been assigned with $1.161.290,00 as Emergency Aid Allowance and $ 1,075,268.00 for the Ministry of Public Education

The national aid campaign launched by the Government has collected to date a total of $67,204,301.00 including $50 million donated by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

As of November 11, 2011, the total international humanitarian response for the Van earthquake amounts to $ 21,327,587 as reported by donor countries to FTS. For details please see link below: http://fts.unocha.org/reports/daily/ocha_R24_E16139___111111618.pdf
VI. Coordination

A window on the UN Turkey’s website has been opened to record the “International Assistance to Van Earthquake” and serve information sharing purposes. Donors are requested to inform about their respective assistance to the UN RC Office at the following address: rco@un.org.tr. The information received is being regularly consolidated and updated and shared with the donors and the UN system. At the same time, RC continues to have bilateral meetings with the donors to exchange information and impress upon the need for a coordinated response.

Information Sites:


VII. Contact

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