



# TURKEY – EARTHQUAKE

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On October 23, at approximately 1341 hours local time, a magnitude 7.2 earthquake struck 10 miles from the city of Van in eastern Turkey, at a depth of 12.4 miles, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The initial earthquake was followed by hundreds of aftershocks, including one of magnitude 6.0.
- As of October 30, the Government of Turkey (GoT) reported that the earthquake had resulted in more than 600 deaths, approximately 4,100 injuries, and significant displacement due to collapsed or damaged buildings. Rain and below-freezing temperatures in the days following the earthquake have exacerbated conditions for displaced and other earthquake-affected individuals.
- Initially, the GoT declined offers of international assistance, opting instead to rely on its own robust emergency response management systems to respond to the effects of the earthquake. However, as the need for shelter increased, and in recognition of the international community’s willingness to provide assistance, the GoT formally requested assistance on October 25.
- On October 25, U.S. Ambassador Francis J. Ricciardone, Jr., declared a disaster due to the effects of the earthquake. In response, USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) contributed \$300,000 for earthquake relief activities and deployed a USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor (RA) to affected areas to help coordinate U.S. Government (USG) response efforts. USAID/OFDA is also supporting a USGS Earthquake Disaster Assistance Team (EDAT) mission to Turkey. In addition, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) delivered relief commodities through a series of five airlifts.
- On November 1, a USG delegation, including USAID/OFDA and U.S. Embassy staff, surveyed earthquake damage in the earthquake-affected cities of Erciş and Van. The USG delegation observed less damage than anticipated in Erciş, with an estimated one in 10 to 15 buildings significantly damaged or collapsed and the majority of structures sustaining little visible damage. In Van, USAID and U.S. Embassy staff observed no collapsed buildings and few displaced persons residing in tents. Additional damage to predominantly one-story homes was dispersed throughout the 92 surrounding villages in the affected region. A Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS) official in Erciş reported that the organization does not require additional relief commodities at this time.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		Source
Total Number of Deaths	601	GoT DEMP <sup>1</sup> – October 30, 2011
Total Number of Injured	4,152	GoT DEMP – October 30, 2011
Total Number of Damaged Buildings	5,922	GoT DEMP – October 27, 2011

FY 2012 USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING	
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Turkey <sup>2</sup>	\$300,000
DoD Assistance to Turkey	\$799,000
<b>Total USG Assistance to Turkey</b>	<b>\$1,079,000</b>

## GoT Earthquake Response

- To date, the GoT has provided nearly \$7 million for earthquake relief efforts. The GoT has raised an additional \$12.7 million through a domestic fundraising campaign.

<sup>1</sup> Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency

<sup>2</sup> The funding total does not include \$77,780 for the EDAT earthquake assistance program, as this funding was directed from an existing interagency agreement between USAID/OFDA and the USGS in a previous fiscal year.

- As of October 30, the GoT had deployed nearly 1,800 health professionals, 4,400 urban search-and-rescue (USAR) personnel, and 173 vehicle and helicopter ambulances to affected areas. To date, more than 180 people have been rescued from collapsed buildings, according to the GoT.
- The GoT has also delivered significant quantities of emergency food assistance and relief supplies, including 6,800 catalytic stoves, more than 300,000 blankets, and approximately 35,000 tents, to earthquake-affected areas.
- The GoT Minister of Environmental and Urban Planning announced on October 30 that, within one year, the GoT will provide permanent housing to those whose homes were destroyed or moderately or severely damaged. The GoT has also pledged to provide temporary housing to displaced persons.
- With GoT and international support, TRCS erected a relief tent city in Erciş, established crisis management centers across the country, mobilized large quantities of relief commodities, and provided psychosocial support to earthquake-affected individuals in Van and Erciş.

### **USG Response**

- To date, USAID/OFDA has contributed \$250,000 towards the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) emergency appeal for the provision of relief commodities and shelter assistance to address the needs of earthquake-affected populations. The appeal supports TRCS ongoing response efforts to facilitate appropriate and timely assistance. USAID/OFDA has also provided \$50,000 to the U.S. Embassy in Ankara to meet priority needs.
- In addition, USAID/OFDA is providing more than \$77,780 to support a USGS EDAT mission to Turkey. EDAT will coordinate with Kandilli Observatory of Bosphorus University, the Earthquake Engineering Research Center at the Middle East Technical University, and the GoT Disaster and Emergency Response Presidency to carry out damage assessments, estimate the probability of future large-scale earthquakes in the region, determine factors that contributed to the loss of life, and evaluate existing GoT systems for monitoring and assessing earthquake hazards.
- In response to the GoT's request for assistance, DoD delivered relief commodities to the GoT reception center in Erzurum, located in eastern Turkey, through a series of airlifts, the last of which occurred on October 31. In total, DoD conducted five flights, transporting 1,366 blankets, 369 arctic tents with heaters and plastic fuel cans, 2,782 cots, and 525 sleeping bags. The total estimated cost of DoD assistance to date is \$779,000.

### **Other Humanitarian Assistance**

- More than 30 countries, including Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Egypt, Israel, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Ukraine, and several European Union member states, responded to the GoT request for assistance, providing winterized shelter, relief commodities, and funding to the TRCS. To date, the international community, including donor governments and U.N. agencies, has provided more than 8,630 tents to the GoT to support earthquake response efforts.
- The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) have delivered shelter and relief commodities to Turkey. In total, U.N. agencies had delivered 900 tents to Turkey as of October 31, according to the GoT. In total, UNHCR plans to provide 4,000 tents, 50,000 blankets, and 10,000 bed mats to affected populations.
- The European Union has deployed a team from the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Office (ECHO) to help coordinate incoming European assistance and to conduct an independent needs assessment of earthquake-affected areas, according to media reports.

### **USAID/OFDA Earthquake Preparedness Measures**

- In recognition of Turkey's susceptibility to seismic risk following large-scale earthquakes in 1999 and 2000, USAID/OFDA began supporting disaster risk reduction activities in Turkey in 2000. Due to extensive preparedness measures and a more robust disaster management system, the GoT was well placed to respond to the October 23 earthquake. A recent study conducted by the U.N. World Health Organization indicates that Turkey has substantial response capacity, including trained staff, contingency supplies, and emergency response plans at hospitals throughout the country.
- To support Turkey's USAR capacity, USAID/OFDA has supported training programs, provided technical and program guidance, and donated equipment and vehicles to AKUT, a Turkish USAR team that is operational in the earthquake-affected region, with over 190 rescuers from 16 regional teams. AKUT is one of 25 international teams officially classified by the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG)—a U.N.-led network of disaster-prone and disaster-responding countries and organizations dedicated to USAR field coordination.

- In early 2000, USAID/OFDA initiated a three-year, community-based seismic disaster risk reduction project in Istanbul, which generated basic awareness of seismic hazards and provided training in lessening the risks of those hazards, primarily through first-responder training. In 2003, USAID/OFDA expanded the Istanbul program to at-risk areas countrywide, in collaboration with the GoT Ministry of Education. By 2005, USAID/OFDA basic disaster awareness education activities had reached approximately 4.7 million children, 190,000 teachers, 110,000 staff, and more than 560,000 adults.

#### FY 2012 USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
IFRC	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Earthquake-Affected Areas	\$250,000
U.S. Embassy Ankara	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Earthquake-Affected Areas	\$50,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$300,000</b>
<b>DoD ASSISTANCE</b>			
U.S. European Command (EUCOM)	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Earthquake-Affected Areas	\$779,000
<b>TOTAL DoD ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$779,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$1,079,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of November 2, 2011 and does not include \$77,780 for the EDAT earthquake assistance program, as this funding was directed from an existing interagency agreement between USAID/OFDA and the USGS in a previous fiscal year.

#### PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for response efforts in Turkey can be found at [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:  
The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.821.1999.  
Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)