

Turkey

Entitled The Turkish Red Crescent (1960-1965) and with sub-heading The Red Crescent, ray of hope, the National Society, which in two years' time will be celebrating the hundredth anniversary of its foundation, has now produced an amply illustrated booklet on the Report of its activity over 5 years which it prepared for the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross, meeting in Vienna last October. We have pleasure in reproducing extracts of this work which testify to the increasing effectiveness of the humanitarian action being pursued in Turkey.

Relief Activities. — In the 1960-1965 period the Turkish Red Crescent Society successfully carried out the services expected of it for the alleviation of sufferings in calamity and natural disasters occurring at home and abroad.

In connection with the earthquake in Skoplje, Yugoslavia, on July 25, 1963, the Turkish Red Crescent sent pharmaceuticals and various goods valued at TL 147,870. In addition to that a 25 bed first-aid field hospital together with its personnel was sent to Skoplje. Hence, the Red Crescent aid amounted to TL 201,110. Taking into consideration the local requirements, medicine, surgical dressing equipment, bedsteads, mattresses, blankets and tents existing in that field hospital were later donated to the Yugoslav Red Cross. Also TL 216,000, contributions to the campaign sponsored by the Red Crescent for the repair of buildings ruined in the Skoplje earthquake, was sent to the Yugoslav Red Cross.

The following tables indicate relief sent abroad during the 1960-1964 period (Aid in cash and in commodities are combined) :

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1960

	TL
France	30,001.20
Iran	166,829.20
Chile	9,027.44
Pakistan	23,433.59
Morocco	273,453.62
Afghanistan, Lebanon and Ceylon	90,113.92
Miscellaneous	1,069.41
	<hr/> 593,928.38

1961

	TL
Algerian Refugees in Tunisia	79,600.00
Vietnam	9,071.05
Pakistan	1,398.65
Lebanon	951.05
Afghanistan	2,505.80
Tunisia	18,529.19
Congo	313.10
Somaliland	2,000.00
Miscellaneous	863.01
	<hr/> 115,231.85

1962

	TL
Yugoslavia	13,515.32
Somaliland	9,947.00
Algerian Refugees in Tunisia	175,551.20
Iran	129,021.05
India	10,728.90
Pakistan	48,470.67
	<hr/> 387,234.14

1963

	TL
Morocco	5,997.48
Libya	9,050.16
Indonesia	9,046.74
Pakistan	27,138.61
Yugoslavia	201,110.69
Tanganyika, for Refugees from Ruanda	4,527.66
	<hr/> 294,011.34

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1964

	TL
Yemen	4,545.17
Philippines	9,086.24
Pakistan	210,743.93
India	87,960.80
	312,336.14

Domestic Relief (comprising aid for victims of natural disasters, conducting fights against diseases, operating soup-kitchens in 20 different places for the poor, providing artificial limbs and girdles for people in need, and aid in cash and in goods for needy students) amounted to TL 4,143,212 in 1960 and TL 4,097,670 in 1961, TL 4,386,091 in 1962, TL 7,307,287 in 1963 and TL 2,078,816 in 1964.

Relief to Cyprus. — Relief extended to Cypriots in connection with the events which broke out in Cyprus on December 20, 1963 occupied an important place among various activities of the Red Crescent Society. Despite the difficulties encountered, food, clothing, and medicines have been sent to the Island. Thousands of sick people and wounded have since been cured at the Red Crescent First Aid Hospital which is still continuing to serve in Cyprus. Relief thus far extended to Cyprus and hospital expenses have amounted to TL 22,750,000. This fund has been covered through the sale of "Cyprus Relief Stamps" and donations of our patriotic and noble nation which has associated itself with the problems of Cypriot Turks. In the near future relief of an approximate value of TL 8 million will be sent to the Island.

Health Services. — The health service of the Turkish Red Crescent has developed its medico-social relief work according to modern standards by continuing to alleviate suffering due to natural disasters and calamities, to provide first-aid, to fight against disease while on the other hand to take preventive measures.

The Blood Bank of the Red Crescent is continuing its service with six blood centers and two stations. Our Control and Research laboratory is fulfilling the expected service. A fractionation labora-

tory in Ankara, and modern guinea-pig laboratories attached to the Ankara and Istanbul blood centers are being established.

The following table indicates the blood collections and used during 1960-1964 at the Red Crescent blood centers :

<u>Year</u>	<u>Blood Collected</u>	<u>Blood Used</u>
1960	33,683 Bottles	22,771 Bottles
1961	41,746 "	34,813 "
1962	46,532 "	44,676 "
1963	60,116 "	56,063 "
1964	73,106 "	64,087 "

In order to train first-aiders, training courses are opened every year at the Red Crescent Headquarters, branches and youth camps. At present there are more than 10,000 first-aiders and 250 first-aid instructors in Turkey. The Headquarters has three 25 bed first-aid hospitals of which the number of beds can be increased to 50 when necessary. On the Ankara-Edirne highway on which traffic is heavy 16 first-aid stations are operating. Also a first-aid hospital is being put into operation in Saudi Arabia during the pilgrimage season.

The fight against polio which started out in the country by our Headquarters, is continuing. We have participated in the successful countrywide campaign of polio injections sponsored by the Ministry of Health. At the time of the measles epidemic in early 1965 in Eastern Anatolia particularly, the Red Crescent Society has engaged itself, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, in a serious fight and provided Gamma Globulin and measles injections.

The Nurse and Midwife school operating since 1925 in Istanbul will be given the status of a college in the near future. This school has so far trained over one thousand nurse-midwives.

Warehouses. — The Central warehouse established in 1935 in Etimesgut, Ankara, together with the regional warehouses established in various provinces by the Head Office of the Red Crescent, and the branch warehouses established for emergency purposes by the Red Crescent's branch offices, have an important place in the carrying out of the services of this National Society. The Etimesgut Central Warehouse which comprises 26 barracks made out of

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reinforced concrete and steel sheets, has been set up in an area of 105,000 sq. metres. In this warehouse receipt of goods, storage, classification, maintenance, and delivery are being carried out with modern methods. There are more than 15,000 kinds of aid materials such as food items, clothing, medicines, medical apparatus, tents and construction equipment.

Also the necessary equipment for a 10,000 bed field hospital to be established by the Red Crescent in war, is being stored and given periodic maintenance service at these warehouses.

In order to help disabled and needy citizens and to have them acquire new skills a rehabilitation center has also been established at the Central Warehouse.

Junior Red Crescent. — Junior Red Crescent was founded in 1932 with the aim of associating elementary and secondary school youth with the activities of the Red Crescent. In recent years Junior Red Crescent has improved. The camping areas established by the Red Crescent Headquarters, and branch offices have been most useful during the school summer holiday months for the youth of their neighborhood.

Talented and diligent students from limited-income families, and who cannot afford to spend a vacation by the sea or in a forest, are being taken in those camps where their poor health, knowledge and social manners improve.

The Red Crescent Headquarters has two sea camps: one in Pendik, Istanbul, and the other in Samsun; and two forest camps: one in Çamkoru, Ankara, and the other in Muratdağı, Gediz-Kütahya. Each of these camps has a particularity of its own to please the campers.

The camp in Pendik is on the coast of the Sea of Marmara, in a large park ornamented with decorative plants, rare species of trees, flowers and rose bushes.

The Çamkoru Camp is on the hill-side of a lovely cool forest, with the fragrance of pine-trees and the sound of bird song, where one can swim in the pool filled with crystal clear water.

The Camp of Muratdağı overlooking a thick pine forest, has been set up on a spot where nature has laid its gorgeous beauty at the feet of campers, inspiring them with a sense of relief and a keen

joy of life. Hot spring water flowing into the swimming pool is the speciality of this camp.

The Camp in Samsun has a wonderful beach on the shore of the Black Sea. This camp covers a large area filled with tents and fixed installations.

During the summer vacation three twenty-day camps are held in these camping areas. The camp in Pendik has been the setting for international relations. Each year foreign students are invited to this camp through the media of counterpart sister societies.

In 1963 a group of 50 American Peace Corps members stayed at the Pendik camp. Also 40 members of the Iranian Junior Organization visited Pendik and Çamkoru camps, and spent a week in Pendik. In 1964 boys and girls from Germany, Austria, Iran, Finland, and Greece came to Pendik Camp. In 1965 groups of five from Germany, Austria, Yugoslavia, and Bulgaria stayed at the same camp. The number of students who benefitted from the camps of the Red Crescent Headquarters and of branches were 508 in 1962, 4,500 in 1963, 5,397 in 1964, and 5,000 in 1965. It is planned to further increase this number in the future.