

Turkey

On 22nd July 1967 a serious earthquake caused enormous destruction in the western Turkish Province of Sakarya (previously known as Adapazari). On the main road between Istanbul and Ankara, it was relatively easy to carry out rescue operations and provide relief, and the Turkish Red Crescent immediately sent personnel, a field hospital of 50 beds and 6 generators as the electricity supply was cut, 500 tents, 1,000 blankets, large quantities of foodstuffs and drinking water. The League was advised on the 23rd July that for the time being no international appeal was foreseen. However, tremors continued and the population was afraid to return to their homes even when these were not damaged. Figures received on this disaster as at the 27th July, covering destruction caused in all villages, are 175 dead and 196 seriously injured with 9,000 houses damaged, of which 1,078 completely destroyed, 2,623 uninhabitable and 5,102 with minor damage. Unfortunately, since this information was received another severe tremor has caused more destruction of buildings in the Province of Sakarya placing a further strain on the resources of the Turkish Red Crescent.

The Adapazari earthquake was quickly followed by another serious earthquake on the 26th July in 16 eastern provinces. The epicentres of the disaster were in the towns of Pulumur and Tercan and surrounding villages in the Provinces of Tunceli and Erzincan. The region is very mountainous and communications with the affected villages were disrupted. Unofficial figures indicate that 18 villages were destroyed, killing 116 persons. Red Crescent relief teams proceeded immediately to the disaster area from Erzurum

and Ankara taking food, blankets, and the remaining 800 tents held in stock. The Society then reported to Geneva that with these numerous recent disasters, following other calls on their relief supplies earlier this year for smaller emergencies and help given to the Middle East, their supply of tents was exhausted and SOS for 2,000 tents—now increased to 4,000 tents—and 6,000 blankets was made to the League.

A limited appeal was launched by the League immediately and a number of National Societies have announced help.