



# TURKEY

## Local Capacity Building for Disaster Prevention

### Disaster Context

Until 1999, the Turkish Government's institutional capacity to respond to emergency situations was extremely limited and lacked a functioning disaster management system. A law titled "Measures and Assistance to be Put Into Effect Regarding Natural Disasters Affecting the Life of the General Public" was established in 1959 and amended in 1968. The aim of the legislation was to enable the administrative structure of the government to manage disasters in a timely and efficient manner so that losses and human suffering are minimized and rehabilitation is implemented effectively.

After the terrible earthquakes of 1999, the government established a disaster management system that designated the Ministry of Public Works and Settlement as the government office in charge of disaster response. However, there remains little clarity for conceptualizing disaster management.

### Project Title

Local Capacity-Building for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness

### Sectors

- Increase public awareness
- Local-level capacity-building for risk reduction and preparedness

### Funding

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) contributed \$870,000.

### Partners

- SDC
- International Union of Local Authorities IULA-EMME (Section for the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East)

- Bosphorus University, Kandilli Observatory, and Earthquake Research Centre
- Local authorities in Bursa, Canakkale, and Sakarya provinces
- Local Agenda 21 project partners

### Programme Activities

- Raising public awareness in the provinces of Bursa, Canakkale, and Sakarya and enhancing citizens' preparedness for disasters, in particular earthquakes
- Full integration of disaster preparedness, mitigation and response components into the Local Agenda 21 action plans in the three provinces
- Training 2,000 people on earthquake preparedness; trainees are selected from the relevant project partners consisting of district municipalities located within the three provinces
- Developing local capacities, including host institutions and local trainers, to function as part of the response mechanism in their localities.
- Launching of a national-level public awareness campaign on disaster preparedness, mitigation, and response
- Sharing and circulating the outcomes of the project via the network of Local Agenda 21 cities for the benefit of other disaster-prone localities around Turkey