



TURKEY

Strengthening of Coping Capacities for Earthquakes

Disaster Context

Rapid and uncontrolled urbanization has increased the level of vulnerability to earthquakes, as a large portion of the Turkish population live in high-risk areas. There have been approximately 70 major earthquakes in the last century, collectively causing the deaths of 100,000 people and destroying 500,000 homes. In 1999, two major earthquakes hit the Marmara region, taking 17,225 lives and destroying 38,240 buildings. Viewed within the context of loss of life and injury, earthquakes account for about 90 percent of losses. Measured in terms of direct economic losses, natural disasters have cost an average of 1.2 percent of GNP, with earthquakes accounting for 1 percent. Sixty percent of the population is estimated to be at risk of being hit by a major disaster in the near future.

Project Title

Strengthening of Coping Capacities of Populations Affected by the Marmara Earthquake

Sectors

- Disaster preparedness and mitigation
- Legal assistance

Funding

The European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) contributed 380,000 euros.

Partners

- ECHO
- Governorates and municipalities of Kocaeli, Yalova, Sakarya, Bolu and Duzce
- Provincial directorates of the Ministries of Education, Public Works, and Settlement
- Turkish Psychological Association
- Association of Women for the Republic

- Local bar associations
- Middle East Technical University

Programme Activities

- Production of brochures and a handbook for training of trainers on the Disaster Preparedness Community Training Programme
- Production of a handbook/guide providing an overview and summary of legislation on disaster management
- Training of trainers
- Organisation of community disaster preparedness workshops
- Advisory and referral services to be carried out by lawyers