

Situations of Risk and Humanitarian Emergencies

In Turkey, activities aimed at carrying out programmes on prevention of and preparation for disasters and damage reduction are under the scope of authority and duty of the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) affiliated with the Prime Ministry.

The general approach in policies aimed at situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies is that the state shall do planning for disasters; in cases of disasters, aid forces of the state shall be forwarded to the disaster area as soon as possible and all victims including the ones with disabilities shall be provided with necessary aid immediately and efficiently. In accordance with the regulation on AFAD and response to disasters or emergencies, administrative chiefs shall be responsible for performance of any kind of immediate action and aid after a disaster. The field staff who get into close contact with disaster victims have been trained on communicating with women, children, elderly and persons with disabilities. Besides, the needs of persons with disabilities are identified and fulfilled as part of the services for the Syrian people who are under temporary protection.

Boğaziçi University Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute and OZIDA (defunct) initiated a project titled "Readiness for Natural Disasters" with the objective of building a society with high awareness of disasters and reducing the impact of earthquakes. Within the context of this project, various activities were carried out in order to raising awareness of groups of PwDs on the potential dangers of earthquakes and encouraging them on preparedness to earthquakes. Outcomes of the project included a CD and a Handbook named "Living with Earthquakes: Preparedness of Persons with Disabilities to Earthquakes" that covered separate sections for different types of disabilities.

Prepared by AFAD in 2009, Booklet "First 72 Hour of Persons with Disabilities in Earthquakes" is another publication that aims for contributing to the security of PwDs during natural disasters. Soft copy of this booklet can be obtained from the website of AFAD.

In line with the European and Mediterranean Major Hazards Agreement (EUR-OPA); Training Center of Natural Disaster in Europe that carries out its activities within the structure of AFAD held summer school training on "Psychosocial Support in Natural Disasters and Vulnerable Groups" in September 2011 in Antalya province. Within the scope of the training, workshops were held on special needs of disadvantaged groups with a high risk in disasters such as women, children, PwD and immigrants. Participants of these workshops included undergraduate or post graduate social science students from Georgia, United Kingdom, Spain, Moldova, Slovenia and Turkey.

AFAD's Department of Management of Disasters and Emergency Situations held an international workshop on *Content and Methods of Disaster Focused Awareness Raising Trainings for Vulnerable Groups* within the context of activities organized by Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative in December 2011.

In addition, this department held a seminar on Disaster Preparedness Trainings for Vulnerable Groups with the purpose of developing training programme for high risk group of people (women, children and PwD) in March 2012 in Antalya within the context of *Disaster Management Training Programme of Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Initiative for South Eastern Europe*.