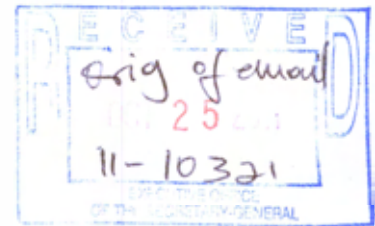


*Central*

**Note to the Secretary-General**



**EARTHQUAKE IN EASTERN TURKEY**

1. This note is to update you on the situation following the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that hit south-eastern Turkey on 23 October 2011. A total of 239 people have been confirmed dead and another 1,300 injured, mainly in Van and Ercis district centres. Casualty figures are expected to increase with search and rescue operations ongoing. As of today, the Government of Turkey reported that 970 buildings collapsed. While electricity and phone lines have largely been restored, damage to roads and other infrastructure has left some villages inaccessible to search and rescue teams.
2. In response to the earthquake, the Government of Turkey quickly dispatched aid and personnel to the affected region, and provided 3 million Turkish Lira (approximately US\$ 1.7 million) to the Governor of Van to respond to emergency needs. According to the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD), approximately 2,400 search and rescue workers have already been deployed to Van district. The Turkish Ministry of Health Disaster and Emergency Coordination Centre was activated and is coordinating the medical relief operation, including the deployment of 1,200 personnel and three tent hospitals. The Turkish Red Crescent Society and the military are assembling residential tents and distributing food. Local NGOs have also deployed personnel to the affected areas. As the temperature drops below freezing at night, and with snow expected on Wednesday, the provision of shelters and blankets remains a top priority.
3. Assistance was also provided by neighbouring countries, including search and rescue teams and material from Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Iran and Bulgaria. Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Poland, South Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States also offered assistance. The United Nations Resident Coordinator contacted the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 23 October to offer assistance on behalf of the UN system. In addition, UN agencies on the ground with disaster response capacity offered support through their respective counterparts. For the time being, the Government of Turkey has indicated that it has the capacity to manage the emergency.
4. OCHA contacted the Turkish authorities in Geneva, Cairo and New York to reiterate the United Nations readiness to support relief efforts as required. OCHA will continue to monitor the situation closely through its regional office in Cairo, in coordination with the office of the Resident Coordinator in Ankara. I will keep you informed of any further developments.

*Valerie Amos*

Valerie Amos  
24 October 2011

Cc: Ms. Clark  
Mr. Kim  
Mr. Nambiar  
Mr. Starr

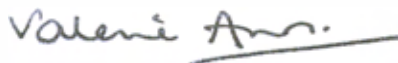


**Note to Mr. Nambiar**

**Earthquake in Eastern Turkey**

Please find attached a note to the Secretary-General on the earthquake in eastern Turkey.

I would be grateful if you could kindly submit this to the Secretary-General.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Valerie Amos" with a horizontal line underneath.

Valerie Amos  
24 October 2011