

# 68 Organizing For "Transferring Live Lessons" Of Disasters For A Safer Future

## BACKGROUND

ADV (ACIL DESTEK VAKFI) is an indigenous, private, non-governmental, non-profit organization that was established at end-2001 by the core crisis management team who carried primary responsibilities in short- and longer term disaster response in Kaynasli, the unfortunate epicenter of 12 November 1999 earthquake in Turkey.

ADV is unique in its organization as some of its founders are public officers (namely, the district governor, the mayor) who are experienced practitioners in disaster management processes and who, at the same time, act as civilian volunteers at ADV, while other ADV supporters include both voluntary field practitioners in Kaynasli, who were victims of the 1999 earthquake and voluntarily joined in response activities, and field experts in Istanbul and Ankara, who voluntarily render their expertise in terms of research, lectures, developing plans and projects for/with ADV.

Starting its activities in 2002, ADV maintains that, while the responsibility for emergency situation (disaster) management (mobilization of all relevant capabilities) ultimately rests with the Government, it must thoroughly be enhanced by emergency (disaster) support management, requiring non-governmental, civilian assistance (The Foundation was named as "Emergency Support" in Turkish, to emphasize this aspect.).

Within this framework, ADV emphasizes the vitality of a non-formal education (awareness raising, training, capacity building) system based on field realities to build/enhance skills at all stakeholders for disaster management, which needs to be integrated with formal education provided by public offices.

## OBJECTIVES

The ultimate objective of ADV is to help structure an efficient and effective interaction nationwide between governmental and non-governmental emergency/disaster response to ensure provision of the most accurate immediate relief for disaster-hit communities and promotion of sound, sustainable development afterwards.

Aiming to share the field experience gained in disaster management in Kaynasli after 1999 EQ with all stakeholders, ADV currently prioritizes the following:

- Activities to develop sensitization and awareness for disaster preparedness and "self-help" at household and community levels,
- Sharing lessons drawn from the field experience with relevant groups of disaster management professionals and practitioners,
- Research and practical work to contribute to standardization of disaster management concepts and field operations (better practices).

## ACTIVITIES

Following list of activities is illustrative for ADV's approach and scope of work

### ■ Awareness Raising/Training for Disaster Preparedness/Risk Reduction

• *In Kaynasli (pilot implementations for community training)*

- Community Volunteers training for disaster preparedness
- Structural Mitigation for EQs program for community leaders
- SPHERE- Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Turkey Workshop)
- Community firefighting and crash rescue training

• *In general:*

—ADV produced a VCD, based on field lessons and emphasizing importance of preparedness and self-help during the first 72 hours of an EQ, to be released on local and regional TVs and mass transport vehicles.

—ADV took part in preparation of "Learning Safe Life" books for 5th and 6th graders, a pilot project initiated by Turkish Red Crescent, supported by American RC.

• *For professionals/practitioners:*

ADV shared its field experience through:

—Presenting the topic the "Role of NGOs in Disaster Management" at joint seminars held by JICA and Turkish Ministry of Interior for District Governors

—Holding a Conference on "The Natural Disasters of Meteorological Origin and Preventive Measures" for top public and private executives in Rize, located at Black Sea coast, a high risk region for floods (and landslides) in

Turkey.

—Presenting the topic "Disaster Preparedness and Operational Research" in a METU Industrial Engineering seminar for post-graduate students and academicians

—Maintaining contacts with Interpreters at Disaster, a voluntary initiative of foreign language lecturers and students active since 1999 EQs

#### ■ **Research**

ADV's public poll (Computer-Aided Telephone survey) to obtain quantitative data on *Emergency/Disaster Preparedness Knowledge* in Turkey, the first of its kind in the country, was completed in February 2004. The poll covered 875 people in 20 cities which covered first-degree natural disaster (earthquake, flood, landslide, avalanche) risk regions countrywide, resembling the country population.

#### ■ **Field study**

ADV and Kaynasli Municipality initiated a pilot Seismic Microzonation Study in Kaynasli in May 2004 as a scientific and technical basis for disaster prevention/mitigation planning. The study intends to develop the awareness about the necessity of seismic microzonation study to as scientific and technical basis for disaster prevention/mitigation planning.

### **FUTURE**

■ Manual for Neighborhood and Village Headmen for Disaster Preparedness

■ Notes for practical Emergency Plans to be applied in social gathering places (namely, schools, mosques, coffehouses where most casualties were reported in '99)

■ Feedback (notes) from field for accountable Disaster Reporting (for media).

■ Suggestions for Linking Pre- and Post-Disaster Efforts with Development (reporting lessons drawn from field practice after 1999 EQs)



### **CONTACT DETAILS**

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