

**Experience of Development and Possibility for Supreme Audit Institutions to Implement
ISSAI 5500**

“GUIDELINES ON AUDIT OF DISASTER-RELATED AID”

Seminar

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**Dear Guests,
Distinguished Participants,**

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to Ankara today.

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to the Turkish Court of Accounts for organizing this informative seminar and bringing together such a distinctive audience.

Today, I would like to tell you about Turkey’s painful experience with disasters and how AFAD, drawing lessons from the past, has developed the country’s first disaster management system to make Turkey more resilient against future disasters, including humanitarian crises.

As you already know, the world is changing at a rapid pace. Today’s children are familiar with new environmental, social and economic phenomena of which their parents were probably unaware until recently. In the wake of such major transformations around the globe, the frequency, types and impacts of disasters are also changing. Turkey, in particular, faces a number of unprecedented tectonic, seismic, topographic and climatic challenges today.

Traditionally, earthquakes have been the most challenging disasters for Turkey, which ranks ninth in terms of earthquake-related casualties and fifth in terms of the total number of people affected. On average, Turkey experiences at least one earthquake with a magnitude of 5.0 or greater. Since 1950, more than 34.000 Turkish citizens have lost their lives in earthquakes, which wiped off three percent of Turkey’s GDP over the past 65 years. Unless we take necessary steps without further delay, the future looks grim: According to seismic studies, 66 percent of the entire country, including 76 percent of all industrial plants, fall within first- and second-degree hazard zones. Furthermore, not only earthquakes but also floods, avalanches, landslides and wildfires place the Turkish people at risk.

Most recently, the country has had to deal with the consequences of man-made disasters in Syria and Iraq, where several million people became displaced due to a raging civil war. In the meantime, the emergence of a tech-savvy generation of young Turks and the country’s growing reliance on nuclear energy mean that technological disasters are becoming more important.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In recent years, Turkey was hit by three major earthquakes, which caused a lot of pain but also gave the Turkish people a push to become more resilient to future disasters. Building on the painful legacy of earthquakes, the Turkish government initiated efforts to create a comprehensive disaster management system to address various disaster-related challenges at the national and local levels. In 2009, the Turkish Parliament authorized the establishment of AFAD, the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority of Turkey, to coordinate the country's response to natural, man-made and technological disasters. Currently, the organization headquartered in Ankara and has provincial offices across the country.

At AFAD, our goal is to maximize Turkey's disaster response capabilities while promoting a culture of awareness and taking necessary steps to reduce disaster-related risks. In this sense, AFAD's first step was to create a strategic roadmap, which introduced guidelines for a comprehensive disaster management system. In order to build a disaster-resilient society in Turkey, we pledged to adopt a systematic approach and become a global brand in disaster management.

Having served as AFAD's President for three years, I am proud to say that we have come a long way.

Distinguished colleagues,

In line with AFAD's systematic approach to disaster management, we developed the Disaster Response System of Turkey (TAMP), which unites the operations of more than 10 government ministries and multiple NGO partners under AFAD's coordination in the face of natural, man-made and technological disasters. With 28 specialized task forces on the ground, TAMP allows the authorities to follow a pre-approved plan to address the affected population's every need, including access to food, clean water and shelter.

For the first time in Turkey's history, care providers rely on a set of clear instructions that maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of relief and rescue operations. Under TAMP, the nation's leading experts create tailor-made blueprints for thousands of disaster scenarios to make sure that there will be no surprises when it counts. In line with up-to-date risk assessments, we hold regular training exercises for TAMP teams to keep them ready 24/7.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A key component of disaster management is a steady flow of information. To make sure that the decision makers have access to up-to-date, AFAD developed AYDES, the Disaster Management Assistance System, which marks a milestone in the technological transformation of Turkey's disaster management mechanism. AYDES is a web-based spatial disaster information management and decision support system which has sub-modules related to preparedness, response, recovery and risk reduction. Through this project, a variety of

Turkey's government institutions and organizations will work in a coordinated manner. This will allow data integration between institutions. Thus, we aimed to develop a sustainable disaster management and information system. Hazard and risk assessment and monitoring studies are the most important inputs of the Disaster Management Decision Support System platform. In this way, the Disaster Management Decision Support System platform will be a decision support system platform using up-to-date information technology.

In the long-term, AFAD is attempting to develop a risk identification and monitoring system that will be integrated into the Disaster Management and Decision Support System. In its strategy plan, it is concluded that AFAD will prepare disaster and emergency response plans, risk management and hazard reduction plans, budget planning and support for local authorities, risk assessments on economic losses, the average annual losses of disasters. These hazard and risk reduction activities will be the most important elements in AFAD's strategy.

To ensure sustainable and secure communication between government institutions and disaster and emergency management centres we developed two projects: Integrated Early Warning System and Sustainable and Uninterrupted and Secure Communication System Project.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the past five years, AFAD successfully coordinated Turkey's response to a number of devastating earthquakes and floods, among others, and helped survivors get their lives back on track. Throughout the process, data and knowledge related to disasters are combined on a one web based platform named as Turkish Disaster Information Bank Project. The purpose of the system; collected historical disasters data that have occurred in Turkey and still be able to archive disasters occurring in more detail in order to use in future scientific studies.

Although some staff and data loss occurred in some departments of the previous structure the electronic archive has been developed. Simultaneously the old documents are recognized in this electronic system.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As part of our disaster risk reduction efforts,

- We have been developing integrated hazard maps throughout the country,
- Have developed risk assessment models to assess the risks and prioritize them.
- And we are preparing strategies for the future..

A more systematic approach to understand risk through developing integrated multi-hazard map projects and risk modelling and research projects as we called TAF-RISK which cover over 15 different types of disasters and emergencies, including earthquakes, floods, landslides, forest fires, droughts and large scale industrial accidents. We hope that these projects will serve in the more accurate evaluation of disaster risks throughout Turkey.

- Now we are to develop projects to mitigate prioritized risks,
- We have been carrying out urban transformation projects.

Trainings and documents related to disaster preparedness and responses are standardized within the scope of Turkey Ready for Disaster project.

Distinguished guests,

Another area we have been investing heavily is, raising awareness through trainings all over our country. Under the umbrella of Disaster Prepared Turkey Projects; we focus on trainings of schools, families, office and youth. With our Disaster-Prepared Families campaign we trained more than 3 million people in 2014.

With our Disaster-Prepared Schools campaign, the percentages of schools which are resilient to earthquakes have risen from %25 in 1999 to %80 this year. We are now the leader country in School Safety Initiative within the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).

Brochures regarding School Disaster Awareness for “Disaster-Prepared School” has been sent to 81 provinces. Disaster Awareness and Plan Preparation Education was included in 2015 Service Training Program of Ministry of Education and published. Training was provided to 1,892,622 students and 25,418 teachers across Turkey.

Trainings and documents related to disaster preparedness and responses are standardized within the scope of Turkey Ready for Disaster project.

We also provide SEVESO-III training to the country’s biggest 700 industrial plants with our Disaster-Prepared Office project. Three short films, two public spots, documentary has been prepared within the scope of “Disaster-Prepared Office Project”.

For disaster-resilient cities we have started the “integrated disaster hazard map” preparation process. In this scope, nearly 150 technical personnel including geology, geophysics and mapping engineers met in a symposium in İzmir. For improving the risk-based work in 2016, the provincial disaster and emergency directorates prepared the hazard maps of avalanches, landslides and rock falls in their boundaries.

The cities which contain high disaster risk, instead of the risky buildings new settlements are being constructed according to the legislation and the regional plans. All procedures are conducted in the scope of the urban renewal project.

Regarding the risk and damage mitigation projects we are working on the preparation of a Turkey’s General Framework for disaster management. The purpose of determining the required policies, priorities and strategies for an effective and efficient disaster management structure and ensuring consistency and harmony among all related activities and efforts. This

Framework will represent a reference document for the national, regional and local disaster risk management plans. It is aimed that this document will be the highest level guideline to determine the strategies and policies on the disaster management as a reference compatible with the visions and missions of Turkey.

In addition we have a special plan for earthquakes. National Earthquake Strategy and Action Plan (UDSEP-2023) is the national roadmap of Turkey in order to reduce earthquake related losses by 2023. This strategy and action plan mainly focuses on the reduction of earthquake related losses.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I have mentioned earlier, man-made disasters pose a greater challenge to communities around the world.

The number of refugees and IDPs around the world has reached its highest level since World War II with more than 60 million people. While there is an urgent need for peace and stability, the global humanitarian system could not even respond to basic humanitarian needs of millions of refugees and IDPs. The global humanitarian system is running out of solutions, whereas affected people are running out of time.

Considering the affected people, Syria is the biggest humanitarian crisis in the history of the world. Based on the information provided by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and AFAD:

- Over 200,000 people have died and 1,000,000 people have injured,
- 12.2 million people out of which 5.6 million are children are in need of humanitarian assistance,
- 7.6 million people are internally displaced,
- 4.2 million people have fled the country.

Since the outset of the conflict in March 2011, increasing number of Syrians have been running away from death and destruction in their home country. They have been looking for a safe haven to survive. With its historical, cultural and neighbourhood ties, Turkey followed an open door policy to Syrians without any discrimination

Today, more than 2.2 million Syrian and diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds live in Turkey under the “temporary protection status.” At this time, Turkey hosts more than half of all Syrian refugees around the world.

With the measures have been taken swiftly in order to shelter displaced people from Syria, temporary protection centres (TPCs) have been established. Turkey is currently hosting about

275 thousand immigrants in 25 TPCs that have been established and managed in 10 provinces for more than four years.

Distinguished Guests,

AFAD's TPCs provide higher living standards to residents than anywhere in the world. We provide accommodation, food, healthcare, education, psychosocial support and vocational training. We mobilize all our resources and capabilities to provide for the needs of those people, in a sense of responsibility.

Every center has a field hospital, constructed as tents, prefabricated houses or buildings. Usually, we serve more than 6 thousand outpatient visits every day in these camps. Since 2011, more than 65,000 babies have been born on Turkish soil. Doctors treated more than 9.7 million outpatients and performed over 287,000 surgical operations in total. As in camps, out-of-camp Syrians receive free healthcare services.

At the centers, Syrian children receive pre-school, elementary, secondary and high school education. Besides, more than 61.000 adults are given vocational education to gain important skills such as hairdressing, sewing, weaving, computer literacy, handicrafts as well as Turkish, Arabic and English language, science and literacy courses. Today, about 80 thousand Syrian children receive education in temporary protection centres with 3 thousand teachers. Children are given education in accordance with Turkish and Syrian curricula. With the out-camp numbers nearly 300,000 Syrians children have access to school in Turkey.

As such, Turkey does not only provide temporary protection for the refugee community but also seeks to equip them with key professional skills for the post-conflict job market.

The camps are managed in a systematic approach starting with biometric records of individuals and emergency aid. For this purpose Disaster Temporary City Management System (AFKEN) is developed by AFAD. AFKEN allows the needs of the victims of a disaster to be addressed in a more focused way, assisting in the administration of temporary refuge facilities, such as container or tent cities, established for the temporary housing of victims of disasters or extraordinary circumstances.

AFAD won the UN Best Public Service Award in which is a global competition that is organized with the purpose of developing and encouraging innovation in public services.

On top of every standard, we tried to promote a culture of democracy and tolerance. Each camp, or I should call them with their official name, each temporary protection centre (TPC) consists of multiple neighbourhoods and these neighbourhoods regularly elect their own representatives for camp management.

Moreover, we promote women to take their roles in the camp management and organize awareness raising campaigns to prevent early marriage and polygamy. We believe that these

are important not only for a healthy society, but because children get their first education from their mothers.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Turkey has a very systematic, sound, sustainable and professional system in place for the camps. However, the number of non-camp refugees is much more than those in the camps. In this respect, we need more schools, hospitals, ambulances, food, shelter, and financial assistance. Turkey needs the support of the international community to build capacity in these necessities.

Within the collaboration of UN agencies, NGOs and other humanitarian actors; Turkey also addresses the humanitarian needs of the Syrian IDPs through the zero-point border operation, in compliance with international law. As of today, nearly 18.000 trucks of humanitarian aid (i.e. food, sheltering material, medicine and medical equipment, hygiene kits, etc.) have been dispatched within the scope of zero-point border operations.

The resources Turkey has spent for these crises have reached nearly 8 billion USD in terms of UN standards, whereas the total international support to Turkey remained at 418 million USD. Turkey has not received sufficient financial assistance from the international community. This burden must be equally shared. Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2015 announces Turkey as the World's 3rd largest and in terms of percentage of GNI second most generous donor country. Turkey is trying to do more than its share in alleviating the suffering of affected people.

These peoples are from four continents of the World, like countries Chile, Somalia, Afghanistan, Palestine, Philippines, Myanmar, Libya, Nepal, Yemen, Syria, Haiti, Central African Republic etc. In its operations, Turkey does not discriminate anyone in terms of their ethnicity, gender, religion, race or any other characteristic. Turkey has been and will be equally interested in their well-being with the humanitarian principles.

As a symbol of Turkey's humanitarian contributions, Istanbul will be hosting the first and ever World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016. As the host country, Turkey will be ready to partner with all relevant actors, to bring concrete solutions to the challenges that we all face. We look forward to seeing the establishment of a long term, cross-regional and multi-stakeholder dialogue among all public, private and NGO representatives in the Summit. The Summit will be opportunity to change the humanitarian aid system, which has failed in many cases.

Distinguished Participants,

As AFAD, we are dealing with vital and hard issues like earthquakes, floods, avalanches, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risks and humanitarian aid, at national and international level. Because of this AFAD is an organization promoting rational utilization of

resources in this multi-dimensional and multi-actor area and carrying out its activities on a multi-disciplinary basis.

We know that we are spending Turkish citizens' hard earned money, in all of our national and international activities. While carrying out our projects and activities, we always take into consideration accountability, transparency, focusing on strategic planning and budgeting on performance principles. AFAD 2013 – 2017 Strategic Plan which is prepared with a participative manner and determines goals, targets, strategies and actions and success and performance indicators is our agreement with the public for the advancement of the disaster management system in Turkey. Our procurements are made depending on Public Procurement Act.

Regarding to accountability and transparency we established a very strong internal control system and as an important part of that internal auditing system. Risk based internal audits are carried out in accordance with generally accepted international auditing standards. Our internal auditors are making audits based on yearly audit programs and three year audit plans. At the same time our external auditing body Turkish Court of Accounts, Sayıştay is controlling all AFAD activities and accounts.

In overall we have three main budget resources. One is from general budget of the government, another one is within the scope of Regulation on Disaster and Emergency Expenditures and lastly from humanitarian aid campaigns. Internal control system and external auditing have access to all three.

Financial resource is allocated to the objectives of disaster risk reduction and disaster preparedness which are defined in the annual performance programs according to the strategic plan. The evaluation of these objectives is made in annual activity reports. These reports are publishing once a year to public opinion with expenditures.

In activity reports of Disaster and Emergency Management Authority, all the disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction plans/projects/activities are defined. This definition includes the name, the responsible department, the purpose and objective, the legal infrastructure, the duration, the funds, budget and expenditures of the project. At the same time the current status of these plans/projects could be found in activity reports. So the disaster preparedness and risk reduction plans/projects keep up-to-date.

AFAD has a very strong internal control and internal audit system to sustain accountability and transparency with very strong establishment structure enough to be able to reach the aims defined in strategic plan at the same time. Taking an active part in providing objective guarantee and consultation, internal audit system contributes to enhance activities of AFAD. Our organisation can be accepted as best practise to sustain the balance between being devoted to aims, accountability and transparency together.

In addition to these financial resources disaster management system of Turkey has a new source.

AFAD, since its establishment up to day, internalized the risk management mentality. Due to the Law no 6525, (Law on the Amendment of Certain Laws and Decrees) published on 27 February 2014.

At least the %1 of the total budget of special provincial administrations and at least the %0.1 of the total budget of the metropolitan municipalities have to be allocated to investment budget. According to the disaster risk of provinces this allocation has to be used by the provincial authorities. In a specific manner, many nationwide projects are conducted by AFAD presidency, according to the provincial risk and hazards.

Distinguished Participants,

As I conclude my speech today, I would like to thank the INTOSAI Working Group on Accountability for and the Audit of Disaster-related Aid for the “**Audit of Disaster Risk Reduction Joint Report**” which was published in March 2015.

INTOSAI’s decision to contribute its collective auditing experience to the international community to enhance the accountability for and the transparency of disaster-related aid is invaluable. And within the progress, TCA’s leading role is a proud for us. As AFAD and Turkey, we believe that with more accountability and transparency more funds will flow to the national and international humanitarian actions.

The Joint Report, in this regard, is an important effort to describe Turkey’s system in that period. But as I draw the current situation of Turkey’s disaster and emergency management system, the improvement and advancement of Turkish disaster management system is so fast in recent years.

In addition we all know that lots of thinks have to be done to build a resilient society.

Thank you.