

OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF TURKEY

After the adoption of the Sendai Framework by UN Member States at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) in Sendai in March 2015, much has been done in Disaster Risk Reduction.

Within the scope of the 7 global target in order to renew disaster risk reduction terminology, AFAD has presented its reviews to the Open Ended Working Group on behalf of Turkey and EFDRR. Critical contributions have been submitted on the EFDRR Road Map by integrating the valuable lessons extracted from the Sendai Framework.

EFDRR Open Forum, hosted by EFDRR Chair Turkey in March 2017, was a major step to strengthen the engagement of multi-stakeholders in DRR. About 500 participants across the Europe including Turkey came together in Istanbul with a common goal to reduce disaster risks and share experience.

While previous sessions have only involved government experts, the Istanbul Open forum brought together intergovernmental organizations, scientific and academic institutions, private businesses, NGOs, community based organizations and others. The multi-stakeholder engagement strengthens our approach as we consider all perspectives to identify, and avoid to the extent possible, the creation of new risks, as called for by the Sendai Framework. In addition to economic losses, they focused on the links between disaster risk, climate change and migration – a high-profile topic, given the regional impacts of the Syria crisis.

The conference was also important for the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, a 15-year international agreement adopted in 2015 with the aim of bringing down disaster death tolls and economic losses.

Sendai Framework calls for increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020 in Global Target E. To achieve the target, AFAD is working on Turkey Disaster Management Strategy and Action Plan and Local Disaster Risk Reduction Plans. As Turkey, we have already start to prepare Disaster Risk Reduction Plan of Turkey (TARAP). The Plan aims to determinate the risk reduction activities according the priorities, and also ensure coordination between institutions and in doing so to avoid duplicate investments. We have initiated Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Plans (IRAP) in line with Turkey Disaster Risk Reduction Plan (TARAP) in three pilot cities. The preparation and monitoring of the plans will be combined with Disaster Management Decision Support System (AYDES) which is the disaster information and management system of AFAD. We aim to conclude the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction Plans by 2020 in all the 81 provinces of Turkey

As AFAD, we have changed our paradigm about disasters. In order to prevent the effects of disasters, we must channel our resources to disaster prevention and disaster risk reduction activities instead of trying to recover the effects of disasters.

To serve this vision, Turkey Disaster Risk Reduction Plan (TARAP) was developed with the contribution of relevant ministries and institutions. TARAP will constitute a rational system that will protect our national wealth effectively with the efficient use of our resources.

TARAP is an answer to “what, how, when and who” questions in disaster risk reduction activities. It is based on gathering disaster risk knowledge and covers all present and possible (new) disaster risks. The stakeholders of TARAP are the central and local governmental institutions, private sector, academia, NGOs, media, families and individual. It also sets forth the basics for legislation, technical regulation, capacity building and implementation.

In order to raise awareness about the Sendai Framework 5 short films were prepared by United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR). These films have been made accessible for the persons with disabilities in Turkey by AFAD.

Turkey is also the member of the Peer Review Mechanism, an important mechanism with the aim of viewing the countries’ disaster management system. Turkey’s disaster management strategies and implementations has been reviewed during the Peer Review Program by the member states.

We believe that our work together on disaster risk reduction must rest on the foundation of a people-centric, human rights-based approach that is inclusive of the most vulnerable in our society, such as persons with disabilities, refugees and the elderly.