

## Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment, Faik Pasa and Mirali Neighbourhood

**Location:** Faik Pasa and Mirali, Turkey

**Date:** November, 2006

**Sector focus:** Multi-hazard vulnerability and capacity assessment

**Spatial focus:** Neighbourhood

### Organization

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The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian organization, with 185 member National Societies. IFRC's work is guided by seven fundamental principles; humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality. The mission statement for the global strategy of IFRC during the first decade of the 21st century is "To improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilising the power of humanity".

Website: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org); IFRC's Disaster Preparedness webpage: [www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/dp](http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/dp)

### Bibliographical details

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, *Turkish Red Crescent Vulnerability Capacity Assessment Faik Pasa and Mirali Neighbourhood*, IFRC, Geneva, Switzerland (2006).

### Language availability

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This publication is available in English and Turkish.

### Abstract

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This publication outlines the main findings of a vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) in Faik Pasa and Mirali conducted in November 2006. These peri-urban neighbourhoods are on the outskirts of Izmir, the third largest city in Turkey, and are home to 3,700 primarily Muslim inhabitants. This document details the community participation tools used, their findings and conclusions using direct observations, transect walk, mapping, historical visualization, seasonal calendar and the process of Change, Influence and Transformation (C.I.T) for action planning. Livelihood analysis is used, although primarily through the lens of sources of financial livelihood and some social capital.

This report is the result of a 5 day 'Learning by Doing' (LbD) VCA in two communities. The LbD training aims to teach staff, delegates, and volunteers the revised VCA toolkit through the actual process of carrying out a VCA. The nature of the LbD training exercise was clearly explained to the participants in Faik Pasa and Mirali and they were informed that the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS) and International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) were not making promises for follow up activities.

Based on the conclusions and data collected through the Participatory Learning and Action (PLA) techniques, 17 main vulnerabilities were identified by the VCA practitioners and the community. These were elaborated into action points and a soft plan for the communities. No actions for transformation have been acted upon since the VCA in 2006.

## **Intended users**

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This publication would be useful for **staff, branch and community volunteers** of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) who are planning to undertake a VCA process. Although it is not specifically stated, it would also be useful for community development, disaster risk, humanitarian and international agency fieldworkers working with peri-urban community-based organizations.

## **Background and context of country, location and project**

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Turkey gained independence in 1923 and endured one-party political rule until after the Second World War. Since then, Turkish political parties have multiplied, but democracy has been interrupted by periods of political instability and military coups between the 1960's and 1980's. Turkey boasts a varied landscape that continues to be shaped and changed by earthquakes and other natural hazards.

The area of Faik Pasa experienced considerable immigration starting in the 1970's, particularly from Kurdish population. This large scale movement of people pre-dated urban planning, so there were many additions to buildings which do not follow building codes and now present a hazard to the occupants or pedestrians. This has limited the space available for new housing construction so that now additions are made to upper levels of houses to accommodate for growing family numbers. Narrowed streets mean that emergency response teams are not able to reach all parts of the community. Expansion has also had a negative impact on the local environment as the trees in the neighbourhoods were cut down to make room for housing; almost no trees exist in the community today. The continuous influx of people has led to social disruption and ethnic tension.

Earthquakes in 1954 and 1972 in Faik Pasa destroyed some of the poorly built homes, especially concrete upper extensions. Despite ethnic tension in the communities, there exists a strong community spirit. According to the publication, there is a history of households working together and supporting each other in times of crisis. Izmir was also among the 8 core radius cities involved in earthquake risk reduction during the last three years of the International Decade for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDNDR).

Social problems identified in the community were limited social outlets and the high rate of youth unemployment, with possible links to crime. Through the tools of the VCA, the community appreciated that they have green spaces for play areas. Between the Altinpark Amateur Football Club, the women's "gold parties" and the hunting association, the community also learned how the existing community organizations could serve as potential platforms or connectors to facilitate interaction and community participation. There was no mention, however, that integration of disaster risk reduction activities would be jointly addressed through these organizations.

## **Technical description**

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**Hazard/risk type:** earthquakes, flash floods, and fires.

**Type of assessment:** Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) and action planning

## **Vulnerability analysis**

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Vulnerabilities were identified as ageing and poorly maintained infrastructure, rapid population expansion due to immigration, high rates of unemployment, low levels of education, and limited social opportunities contribute to increased crime rate and drug use. Through the participatory assessment tools, VCA practitioners observed that the infrastructure is ageing and in poor repair. Walls, additions to existing structures, and balconies pose a hazard to occupants and pedestrians. Many streets are paved but in poor repair. Drainage pre-dates the massive expansion of the city in the 1970's and flash-flooding is common. Garbage collection is inadequate and the steep topography of the neighbourhoods makes emergency response and fire control difficult.

## **Capacity analysis**

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**Resources available:** *health resources:* running water, most people have access to the “green card” so have access to free health services. The proximity of the two neighbourhoods to the third largest city in Turkey means that there are many peripheral benefits including relatively easy access to public transport, telephones, electricity, twice-weekly markets. This is in addition to the existing *local infrastructure:* police station, health centre, 3 mosques and primary schools, a secondary school, and a community centre.

**Limitations to capacity:** The socio-economic status and ethnic conflict are cited as barriers to being able to address community issues.

## **Notes on Methods and Tools**

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The publication presents each tool used to conduct the assessment and is broken into three parts: a summary of the results, detailed description, and main conclusions of each tool used.

**Methods used:** Direct observation, spatial map, vulnerability-risk map, capacity-resource map, transect walk, historical visualization, historical profile, seasonal calendar, organizational capacity assessment, and focus group. These tools were used with children, youth, elders, men and women and helped to identify vulnerabilities and capacities that were then narrowed down into actions for transformation. The actions were categorised in the short, medium and long-term as well as prevention, mitigation and preparedness activities. Through follow up with the resource people in the community, no actions for transformation have been implemented.

A livelihood analysis was used though primarily through the lens of financial and social capital. In other areas of the publication, natural, physical and human capital are considered.

## **Lessons learned**

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- ◆ Women have good understanding of disasters and other issues in the community, however lack an understanding of prevention and preparedness measures.
- ◆ Despite ethnic tension in the communities, there exists a strong community spirit. There is a history of households working together and supporting each other in times of crisis.
- ◆ The children feel there is a lack of recreational space for football and leisure activities.

## **Key words**

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Flash floods, fires, earthquakes, traffic and road hazards, ageing infrastructure

## **Author of Explanatory Note**

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The ProVention Consortium contracted Stephanie Bouris to author this explanatory note.

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