



## **Turkey's Humanitarian Diplomacy Approach within the Framework of the Turkish Red Crescent**

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### **Keywords**

Public diplomacy,  
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Capability  
approach, Turkish  
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### **Abstract**

With the debate on the neglect of the humanitarian dimension of development gaining weight in the 1980s, structural adaptation policies have been developed. However, the practices related to these policies have brought along certain critical perspectives as well. Criticism towards international organizations such as the World Bank and the IMF, which are particularly functional in this regard, has increased. The Capability Approach developed by Amartya Sen is one of the opposing stances that emerged in this context. And later in the process, it formed the theoretical foundation of the Human Development Approach developed by the UN. This approach that puts people at the center of development lies under the acceptance of the development of human potential as the fundamental premise today. In this context, development aids began to gain more strategic importance on the international level and became an indispensable instrument of public diplomacy. Thus, countries with value-based power have become more active on international platforms. In this context, having developed as a component of public diplomacy, humanitarian diplomacy has acquired the most functional role in the public diplomacy achievements of nations with its capacity to produce solutions to problems in different geographies. The most important bearer of this responsibility in Turkey is the Turkish Red Crescent and it is undoubtedly one of the building blocks that have transformed traditional diplomacy. In this study, we examine the Turkish Red Crescent's field of activity as one of the most important actors of humanitarian diplomacy and make a query of Turkey's capacity in humanitarian diplomacy through descriptive analysis and data obtained by means of interview technique. In the study that examines the international assistance provided by the Turkish Red Crescent between 2008 and 2018, it was revealed that the budgets allocated to international humanitarian aids and development aids after disasters as well as international humanitarian aids increased every year, thus leading to a considerable increase in Turkey's capacity in humanitarian diplomacy. In this context, it should be noted that the Turkish Red Crescent has most favorably consolidated Turkey's international image through the humanitarian diplomacy it maintains and contributes to this international support capacity that the research data presents.

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# Türk Kızılayı Çerçevesinde Türkiye'nin İnsani Diplomasi Yaklaşımı

## Keywords

Kamu diplomasisi,  
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Kalkınma  
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Kapasite yaklaşımı,  
Türk Kızılayı.

## Abstract

1980'li yıllardan itibaren kalkınmanın insani boyutunun ihmali konusundaki tartışmaların ağırlık kazanması yapısal uyum politikalarının gelişimine yol açmıştır. Ancak bu politikalarla ilgili uygulamalar eleştirel bakış açılarını da beraberinde getirmiştir. Özellikle bu konuda fonksiyonel olan Dünya Bankası ve IMF gibi uluslararası kuruluşlara yönelik eleştiriler artmıştır. Amartya Sen tarafından geliştirilen Kapasite Yaklaşımı da bu bağlamda ortaya çıkan karşı duruşlardan biridir. Ve daha sonraki süreçte BM tarafından geliştirilen İnsani Gelişme Yaklaşımı'nın da teorik altyapısını oluşturmuştur. Günümüzde insan potansiyelinin geliştirilmesinin temel önerme olarak kabul görmesinin altında kalkınmanın merkezine insani koyan bu yaklaşım bulunmaktadır. Bu çerçevede, kalkınma yardımları da uluslararası düzlemde daha stratejik önem kazanmaya başlamış, kamu diplomasisinin de vazgeçilmez bir enstrümanına dönüşmüştür. Böylelikle değer temelli güce sahip olan ülkeler uluslararası platformlarda daha etkin hale gelmeye başlamışlardır. Bu bağlamda, kamu diplomasisinin bir bileşeni olarak gelişim gösteren insani diplomasi de farklı coğrafyalardaki sorunlara yönelik çözüm üreten kapasitesi ile ülkelerin kamu diplomasisinin başarılarında en işlevsel rolü edinmiştir. Türkiye'de bu sorumluluğun en önemli taşıyıcısı Türk Kızılayı'dır ve hiç kuşkusuz geleneksel diplomasinin dönüşümünü sağlayan yapıtaşlarından biridir. Bu çalışmada da, insani diplomasinin en önemli aktörlerinden biri olarak Türk Kızılayı'nın faaliyet alanı incelemeye alınarak, Türkiye'nin insani diplomasideki kapasitesi betimsel analiz ve görüşme tekniği ile elde edilen veriler aracılığıyla sorgulanmıştır. Türk Kızılayı'nın 2008 - 2018 yılları arasındaki uluslararası desteklerinin incelemeye alındığı çalışmada, ülkeler arası acil insani yardımlar ve afetler sonrası kalkınma yardımları ile uluslararası insani yardımlara ayrılan bütçelerin her yıl artış gösterdiği, dolayısıyla Türkiye'nin insani diplomasideki kapasitesinin oldukça yükseldiği anlaşılmıştır. Bu çerçevede de, Türk Kızılayı'nın, araştırma verilerinin ortaya koyduğu bu uluslararası destek kapasitesiyle sürdürdüğü, katkıda bulunduğu insani diplomasi ile Türkiye'nin uluslararası imajını oldukça olumlu yönde güçlendirdiği belirtilmelidir.

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## 1. Introduction: On Humanitarian Diplomacy

The concept of "*Humanitarian Diplomacy*", which has recently been incorporated into Turkish foreign policy vision, was first used by Larry Minear and Hazel Smith in their work titled *the Humanitarian Diplomacy: Practitioners and Their Crafts*, published in 2007. And it is defined as diplomatic efforts that humanitarian organizations and workers in this field undertake for humanitarian purposes. Humanitarian diplomacy aims to open up space for the activities of humanitarian organizations as well as political and military actors and is comprised of coordination activities of humanitarian organizations, aid to civilians, transportation of humanitarian aid and raising awareness on international law and norms (Şahin and Çevik, 2015: 51).

The concept of diplomacy, which is a way of establishing and implementing international politics in the global system, changed after the Cold War and

acquired different dimensions, including humanitarian aspects such as humanitarian intervention. Therefore, it can be said that the theory and practice of humanitarian diplomacy also developed (Bakır, 2018: 1; Kireççi, 2015: 1-6).

Today, humanitarian diplomacy points to a "*new development paradigm*" that deals with all kinds of inequalities that people face in different parts of the world. This new paradigm is recognized as a paradigm that adopts sustainable development and ensures an inclusive and even distribution of development's gains (Şahin and Çevik, 2015: 55). Therefore, it is a human rights-based approach. Human rights refer to the rights that all people must have, without any discrimination, only because they are human and as the requirement of human dignity (UNDP, 2000: 16). Human rights are universal — they are the same for everyone, everywhere. Human rights are inalienable — they can neither be taken nor renounced. Human rights are inseparable — there is no hierarchy between rights, and no right can be pressured to raise any other right (UNDP 2007-8). Human rights, whether or not recognized by the state, secured by the constitution or not, is a moral concept that includes rights and freedoms that all people will use without any discrimination. It is based more moral beliefs than legal provisions (As cited in Akyıldız, 2014: 42).

Turkey's international humanitarian aids, which is fueled by the country's history and culture and based on its strong tradition, started in the form of food aid to some countries in the mid-1980s and gaining momentum in recent years, have expanded to many regions of the world, diversified in quantity and quality and come to include many other areas besides food.

In addition to bilateral humanitarian aid, Turkey also provides assistance through international organizations such as The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the World Food Programme (WFP), and this gives an international dimension to our humanitarian aid. The aim is to take concrete steps towards a fast and effective intervention to existing humanitarian crises and to determine policies that will prevent humanitarian crises. And accordingly, to lay emphasis on the common responsibility and ownership of society at the global level.

Turkey's official development aids have increased considerably. According to *the Global Humanitarian Aid Report*, Turkey is the third-largest donor country in the world, following the United States and the UK, with the amount of assistance it has provided. And also on the basis of national income, Turkey has achieved the position of the "most generous" donor country among the DAC members of the OECD.

With such approaches in this context, Turkey seems to have given a privileged place to humanitarian diplomacy within its public policies. In this study, we aim to demonstrate the dimensions of the humanitarian diplomacy of Turkey, which has risen to the position of the most generous country in development aids. In line with this objective, the Turkish Red Crescent, which is a public authority in development aids, was selected as a sample for our research; and to be able to empirically reveal the dimensions of Turkey's humanitarian diplomacy, the main activities of this public organization in the last decade were subjected to thematic

analysis. To obtain data regarding the related activities, interviews with the institution were held between June and September 2019.

## **2. The Right to Development as a Human Right**

There has been an increasing rapprochement between human rights discourse and development discourse in recent years. For a long time since the international community accepted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, economic, social and cultural rights have been relatively neglected in comparison to personal and political rights in human rights literature.

The viewing of human rights as a whole does not prevent them from being subjected to certain classifications. The most common classification of human rights which have been classified in different ways in different national and international human rights documents is the first, second and third-generation rights classification made according to the historical development process. The rights and freedoms named the first-generation rights and referred to as "*personal rights*" and "*political rights*" in today's constitutions and human rights documents, are based on the struggle of the bourgeoisie against the king and aristocracy. The first-generation rights including personal rights such as personal security, privacy of private life, property right, freedom of religion and conscience, freedom of expression, freedom of press, freedom of organization; and political rights such as the right to petition, right to vote and get elected, freedom to have a political party, the right to hold public office target the individual's material and spiritual development at will in an area where political power is not involved as well as aiming to enable his participation in political power. (As cited in Akyıldız 2011: 42-3)

Implementation of the right to work, the right to education, the right to health services, the right to social security, the right to housing as well as the rights regarding the care of people in need such as the women, children, and the elderly allowed impoverished people to take full advantage of human rights. Many of these second-generation rights are the rights that impose the task of providing a certain service on the state, and their realization depends largely on the mobilization of financial resources. The development and institutionalization of these rights have been parallel to the institutionalization of the social state (As cited in Akyıldız 2011: 43).

The most recent rights emerging in the historical process are the third generation rights, which are also called new human rights and solidarity rights. The most fundamental feature of third generation rights is that they are based on the aim of creating the environment of solidarity necessary for man. The intervention of the state is not solely sufficient for the realization of these rights. Besides the state, the joint effort of individuals and institutions, in other words, the effective participation of all people living in society is required. International cooperation of states is especially of great importance (As cited in Akyıldız 2011: 44).

The development of human rights and democracy in a country is closely related to the development of that country. Because development arises as a result of relations between economic, political and social institutions, between people, and

between people and institutions (Işık, 2006: 40). There is a close relationship between the concept of economic development and the nature of the political regime. As Amartya Sen points out, freedoms are not only the primary consequences of development but also among the primary objectives of development. Development can be regarded as a process of expanding freedoms in general. According to Sen, for development to take place, poverty, cruelty, lack of economic opportunities, social deprivation, neglect of public services and devices of oppression must be eliminated (As cited in Akyıldız 2011: 44).

However, it seems that over time this imbalance has been attempted to be resolved. The adoption of *the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development* (1986) is an important development in this field. The first article of the Declaration defines this right as follows:

*"The right to development is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized."*

In this declaration, the right to development is united within the fundamental freedoms and interconnected human rights -personal and political rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights- that are inseparable and interconnected and that all people will have without the distinction of race, gender, language or religion.

In the Declaration on the Right to Development, development is defined as a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process aimed at developing the welfare of all people on the basis of active and free participation in development and fair use of the benefits of development. The third article of the Declaration marks that states have a priority position in creating national and international conditions required for the realization of the right to development. In addition, the same article also points out the task of states to cooperate with each other in achieving development and eliminating obstacles against development (UN Declaration on the Right to Development, 1986: Article.3).

The eighth article of the Declaration focuses on the importance of access to basic resources in realizing the right to development. As a matter of fact, the article in question states that, among other measures, the development of equality of opportunity in access to basic resources, especially education, health services, food, housing, employment and the fair distribution of income is necessary for the realization of the right to development. It is in the same article that states should support participation in all spheres in the development and full realization of human rights (UN Declaration on the Right to Development, 1986: Article.8).

The Declaration on the Right to Development, which expresses the meaning of the right to development as a human right in the international sphere and later, the Vienna Declaration of 1993, which emphasizes the right to development is a universal and indispensable right as well as a complementary part of the human rights, have been effective in the rapprochement of human rights discourse to the traditional concerns of development discourse and ensured a consensus that the

United States also participated on the view that the "*Right to Development*" is a universal human right (As cited in Metin 2014: 6322).

In the Vienna Declaration, the right to development is associated with the joint obligation of the international community as well as countries' own obligations. In particular, the Declaration stated that the least developed countries of the world deserve the support of the international community (As cited in Metin, 2014: 6323).

The Millennium Development Goals adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2000 to promote humanitarian development and to reduce global poverty is an important international initiative in terms of increasing global awareness in this context.

### **3. Research Findings**

#### **3.1. Improving Assistance/Decreasing Vulnerability Policy of the Turkish Red Crescent**

Having undertaken important tasks to ensure social solidarity, contribute to the development of social welfare, and provide housing, nutrition and health assistance to the poor and needy since its establishment in 1868, the Turkish Red Crescent is active in the fields of blood, disaster, international aid, immigration and refugee services, social services, health services, first aid, education, youth, services as well as operating mineral water facilities.

The Turkish Red Crescent is a voluntary social service organization with a legal entity, subject to private law provisions, non-profit, with assistance and services for the public benefit. Its mission is to provide assistance to the needy and the defenseless in disasters and usual periods as a proactive institution, to improve cooperation in society, to ensure safe blood supply and to decrease vulnerability. Its vision is to be taken as a model in humanitarian aid service in Turkey and in the world and be the Organization which stands by people in their hardest times.

The purpose of the Red Crescent is to try to prevent or alleviate the suffering of man wherever it may be found, to protect human life and health, to ensure respect to his personality as well as striving to bring mutual understanding between people and ensure friendship, respect, cooperation and constant peace. The Red Crescent is a symbol of solidarity in the moment of need, equality in the moment of suffering, humanity, neutrality, and peace in the most heated moment of war.

It shares the basic principles of the International Red Crescent-Red Cross Society. These are the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.

#### **3.2. Corporate Values**

Turkish Red Crescent Society represents *fairness*. It provides its services to those in need without any form of discrimination. In its services to the community, it adheres to the Fundamental Principles of the International Movement and its Institutional Values. The Red Crescent defines the value of "Justice" as ([www.kizilay.org.tr/2019](http://www.kizilay.org.tr/2019)):

- Demonstrating the same behavior and approach to all, without any form of discrimination of religion, language, ethnicity, nationality and gender,
- Evaluating all cases and options with impartiality and neutrality,
- Maintaining justice in all activities and services,
- Contributing to permanent peace by promoting humanistic values,

forming the basis of the relationships between institutional staff and members, making it a component of corporate culture.

Another essential value for the Red Crescent is *open communication*. Turkish Red Crescent Society, by its charitable nature, is open to sharing resources with society and is independent of prejudices. It makes information accessible by all, including donors, solution partners and the community. The Turkish Red Crescent defines the value of “Open Communication” as ([www.kizilay.org.tr/2019](http://www.kizilay.org.tr/2019)):

- Sharing information and experiences,
- Promoting interaction with the community,
- Being accessible, transparent and accountable,
- Sharing information within the institution on a regular and concurrent basis.

*Solidarity* is also a prime value for the Red Crescent Society. Nurtured by its historical roots and the compassion of its community, the Society shares common values with its donors in their joint action. The Society delivers all of its services through the support of the community. Members of the Society also place emphasis on solidarity within the team while providing services that incorporate the culture, traditions and collective experience coming from its roots. The Turkish Red Crescent Society defines the value of “Solidarity” as commitment, team spirit, trust, cooperation, support, and sharing, making it a component of the corporate culture.

Providing *an environment of trust* is also among the priority values of the Red Crescent. Turkish Red Crescent Society inspires trust by realizing the Fundamental Principles and Institutional Values. It upholds and ensures the protection of human dignity. All relations between the members are governed by trust. Turkish Red Crescent Society defines the value of “Trust” as a means of solving social problems as ([www.kizilay.org.tr/2019](http://www.kizilay.org.tr/2019)):

- Reliability in words, actions, and behavior,
- Foundation for success and esteem,
- Trust and dependability in interpersonal relations,
- Providing services as afforded by resources and capacity,
- Consistency.

### **3.3. International Aids**

In the last 10 years, the Turkish Red Crescent has intervened natural and man-made disasters in 78 different countries and has extended a helping hand to 137

countries since its establishment. The Turkish Red Crescent, working regardless of religion, language and racial discrimination, lends a hand to millions of people in different regions of the world. Increasing the capacity of its works every passing day in the field of humanitarian aid, the Turkish Red Crescent has attained a very important role globally.

The Turkish Red Crescent had disaster operations in 78 different countries in natural and human-related disasters in the last 10 years and has the basic needs of people in need such as shelter and nourishment. The Turkish Red Crescent, besides providing humanitarian aid in countries like Palestine, Sudan, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Kirghizia, Kosovo, Somali, Pakistan, put its signature under important successes in its permanent projects for welfare. It has concentrated its activities on projects related to the construction of houses, schools, community centers, houses of prayers, public facilities and providing and supporting means of living and in the fields of health, education, social aids, agriculture and irrigation in the countries needing help.

Within the scope of immigration services, humanitarian aid activities are carried out for all foreigners registered in our country regardless of language, religion or race. Directorate of Migration and Refugee Services works in cooperation and coordination with institutions and organizations that provide service in the field of migration such as The Ministry of Interior General Directorate of Migration Administration, Disaster and Emergency Management (AFAD), Ministry of Family and Social Policies, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and United Nations agencies.

Within this scope, it is responsible for the provision of emergency aid, adaptation and integration services, the provision of in-kind and cash assistance, the development and implementation of projects and programs for all foreigners registered in our country, who are living aidless. The following services are provided within the body of the Turkish Red Crescent Directorate of Migration and Refugee Services ([www.kizilay.org.tr/2019](http://www.kizilay.org.tr/2019)):

- Red Crescent Card (smart cards distributed for purpose of in-kind and cash aid),
- Child protection/child-friendly areas (psychosocial support and skills development activities for 4-18 age group),
- Community centers (vocational and language courses for adult and child populations outside the camp as well as orientation works, psychosocial support, protection, referral, and advocacy activities, etc.) and
- Border assistance activities (delivery of humanitarian aid donations to be delivered to Syria through border points) and the services provided at reception and sheltering as well as repatriation centers.

The Red Crescent, which arises from the desire to help the wounded indiscriminately on the battlefield, strives to prevent and relieve human suffering within its national and international capacity irrespective of the place. Its aim is to protect human life and health and to ensure respect for human dignity. It supports

mutual understanding, friendship, cooperation and lasting peace among all people. The Red Crescent does not discriminate against nationality, race, religious belief, class or political thought. It tries to relieve human suffering by giving priority to the most urgent and essential needs.

In order to gain the trust of everyone, the Red Crescent is not a party to hostilities and never enters into political, racial, religious and ideological conflicts. It is an independent institution. As the helper of the public authorities in the humanitarian operations, it has an autonomy that is subject to the laws of the Republic of Turkey but always allows itself to act in accordance with the fundamental principles of the International Red Crescent-Red Cross Movement. It is a voluntary charity that does not in any way look after its benefit from its services. In Turkey, a single association can be established under the name of 'Red Crescent'. This association is open to everyone. It conducts its humanitarian activities in a way to cover the whole country. The Red Crescent, which has equal status with national associations of other countries and shares equal responsibilities and duties with them in mutual assistance, is involved in a worldwide organization.

It provides services within the framework of ethical values, adhering to the following principles, which are the main principles of international corporate governance.

**Table 1.** Corporate Principles of Turkish Red Crescent

<b>Basic and Corporate Principles</b>	<b>Corporate Governance Principles</b>
Humanity	Transparency
Neutrality	Accountability
Impartiality	Responsibility
Independence	Justice and Equality
Volunteer Service	
Unity	
Universality	

**Source:** Turkish Red Crescent Strategic Plan (2016-2020)

It provides sufficient, accurate and comparable information about the financial, in-kind and economic issues related to the organization in a timely, concrete and understandable manner. It ensures the compliance of its activities and services with the basic principles of the movement it is a member of, national and international relevant legislation, internal regulations, social and ethical values. In addition, in all of its activities, it adopts treating equally and acting in a non-prejudicial way against third parties.

### **3.3.1. More International Help and More International Relations**

Its main objective is to contribute to the mitigation of vulnerability and suffering in the disasters through humanitarian diplomacy and international humanitarian aid activities and to increase its contribution in this direction to become one of the leading actors in the International Red Crescent/Red Cross movement. It carries out the following strategies for this purpose:

**Table 2.** International Strategic Goals of Turkish Red Crescent

<b>Strategic Goals</b>	
SG1	To address the needs of victims and vulnerable persons in international crises and disasters in the most effective way.
SG2	To focus on international emergency aid and improvement issues.
SG3	To establish psychosocial service capacity.
SG4	To improve the Housing/Camp Management capacity.
SG5	To create the logistics infrastructure to support International Operations.
SG6	Continental localization (decentralization) of international programs.
SG7	To use 30% of the Turkish Red Crescent's annual budget for international activities in order to become an international actor sought for international cooperation.
SG8	To ensure standardization and development in operational processes.
SH9	To increase the awareness of Turkish Red Crescent activities in the international arena and to keep the rights of victims and vulnerable persons on the agenda.

**Source:** Turkish Red Crescent Strategic Plan (2016-2020)

One of the main objectives is to provide human services to individuals and communities who are victimized as a result of population movements in cooperation with national and international institutions and organizations.

Migration in all geographies as well as in Turkey, has become a topic of great importance. A significant increase in population mobility has occurred, as Turkey is located on the important transit route due to its geographic position. Therefore, Turkey has introduced new regulations to set and implement more effective policies on migration.

**Table 3.** Turkish Red Crescent's Strategies for Migration Services

<b>Strategic Goals of Migration</b>	
SGM1	To design the migration service model that will increase the capacity of the Turkish Red Crescent to respond to population movements.
SGM2	To conduct cross-border assistance and awareness-raising activities for countries with intensive asylum seeker flows to prevent migration in situ.
SGM3	To provide social services for asylum seekers.
SGM4	To improve the urgent and temporary accommodation conditions of asylum seekers.
SGM5	To improve the living conditions of asylum seekers living outside the camps.
SGM6	To establish a model by ensuring that an impartial service that meets minimum human standards is provided in Acceptance and Return Centers.
SGM7	To provide nutrition services for population movements impartially and at the minimum human standards.

**Source:** Turkish Red Crescent Strategic Plan (2016-2020)

Due to the said developments in Turkey, the Turkish Red Crescent has set as a goal the engagement in humanitarian services for people and communities, which are victimized as the result of population movements, in cooperation with the national and international institutions and organizations. In line with this objective, it aims at designing a migration service model that will increase the capacity to respond to population movements; at conducting cross-border assistance and awareness-raising activities for countries with intensive asylum seekers flow to prevent

migration on-site; at providing social services for asylum seekers; at improving the emergency and temporary housing conditions of asylum seekers; and at providing nutritional services impartially and at minimum human standards.

### 3.3.2. Main Aid Parameters of the Last 10 Years of Turkish Red Crescent

Turkish Red Crescent demonstrates that it has become one of the effective components in the transformation of Turkey’s foreign policy mechanism within the frame of the above-mentioned basic principles and values as well as the strategies it conducts. In this context, it should be noted in the conjuncture, which has evolved from traditional diplomacy to very different processes, that the Turkish Red Crescent is a Humanitarian Diplomacy actor with a current mission far beyond being merely an aid organization. The Turkish Red Crescent, which reaches all people without any discrimination, reflects the dominant role of transforming diplomacy with its independent functioning from internal and external socio-political and economic processes as well.

**Table 4.** Countries that Turkish Red Crescent Has Helped in the Last 10 Years

Supported Countries		
Afghanistan	Iraq	
Albania	Cameroon	Romania
Bangladesh	Montenegro	Senegal
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Kazakhstan	Serbia (Sandzak)
Bulgaria	Kenya	Somalia
Burkina Faso	Cyprus	Sudan
Djibouti	Kirghizstan	Suriname
Chad	Kosovo	Syria
Ecuador	Lebanon	Tanzania
Ethiopia	Macedonia	Togo
Palestine	Mongolia	Uganda
Gambia	Moldova	Jordan
Guinea	Niger	Yemen
South Sudan	Pakistan	

**Source:** Data from interview with the Red Crescent/2019

The Red Crescent has provided support to forty countries for their needs in the last decade. As can be seen in Table 4, these supports were mainly directed to Africa, Middle East, Central Asia, and Eastern European countries.

#### 3.3.2.1. 2008-2018 Main Parameters of Humanitarian Relief Activities of Turkish Red Crescent

##### Georgia-2008

The diplomatic crisis between Georgia and the Russian Federation due to South Ossetia turned into a crisis of humanity with the military operation organized by the Georgian troops to South Ossetia on 08.08.2008. According to UNHCR data, more than 158.000 people in total in the region have left their places due to the crisis in the region and according to the news in the press; the crisis has cost the lives of 3.000 people.

Upon the developments, the *Caucasus Humanitarian Operation* was carried out between 08.09.2008-09.03.2008. During this operation, teams were kept at 4

different points, including Tbilisi, Batumi, the Sarp Border Gate, and Posof, and a total of 167 tents, 2.500 blankets, 1.5 tons of drinking water, 150 bedchairs, 7.000 food parcels containing rice, chickpeas, beans, flour, pasta, granulated sugar, 60 tons of dry food and 1900 items of clothing are shipped to the region, while 4.000 food parcels with the same content, 1.683 kitchen sets, and 720 beds were delivered to the needy by the Turkish Red Crescent within the scope of the Regional Cooperation Program.

In addition, during the crisis, materials such as local liquid soap, toilet paper, paper towels, fruit juice, bread, sanitary napkins, diapers, *grechka* (buckwheat), granulated sugar, rice, oil, salt, crackers, corn flakes, milk extracts, paper napkins, toothbrushes, powder detergent, toothpaste as well as other supplies were also purchased from the locals by our teams, who were within the border of Georgia, and distributed at different points.

*Georgia Operation*, which was completed with the commissioning of 34 Red Crescent Personnel and 25 vehicles in total, concluded with the signing of the Strategic Cooperation Agreement with the Red Cross of Georgia, and the Red Crescent provided assistance to cover the 1-month Vehicle Rental, fuel price, disaster management coordinator's salary, disaster management coordinator's accommodation, communication costs and the costs of computer, printer, promotional materials, and stationery expenses in order to contribute to the activities of the national association primarily.

### **Pakistan-2008**

The earthquake with a magnitude of 6.4 on the Richter scale, which occurred on October 29, 2008, at 05.10 at local time in Ziarat, 135 km north-east of Quetta, capital of Baluchistan State, Pakistan, caused 176 people to lose their lives, 312 people to get injured, and hundreds of homes to be destroyed. The earthquake, which affected a total of 7.000 families (45.110 people), affected mostly the village of Wam with a population of 2.000. After the earthquake, 80 people lost their lives in Wam, 145 people were injured and more than a hundred houses became uninhabitable.

*On October 31, 2008*, 4 local personnel, who was employed by Turkish Red Crescent within the scope of Capacity Building in Pakistan Red Crescent Project and consisted of disaster management specialist, psychologist, training specialist and disaster management coordinator, and 1 Turkish Red Crescent disaster specialist reached the disaster area and the need determination efforts were completed in the villages in the most affected agricultural settlements in cooperation with the Red Crescent of Pakistan.

According to the preliminary findings, the Turkish Red Crescent primarily delivered a relief supply kit containing 1.000 basic foodstuffs consisting of rice, beans, flour, oil, sugar, tea, salt and milk powder, and 500 hygiene packages containing towels, bath soap, laundry soap, baby lotion, miswak, comb, cold cream, petroleum jelly, scissors and nail scissors to the families in various villages in the disaster area.

Regarding shelter, which is one of the priority needs of the disaster victims, the Turkish Red Crescent sent 10 tent cities to the disaster area, each of which is designed to meet the housing needs of 12 families and is produced to high standards. The construction of the Disaster Management and Logistics Center within the area of the Headquarters of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society continued in 2008 as well.

### **Indonesia-2009**

In April, 500 families affected by the flood caused by the collapse of the historic Situgintung Dam in Tangerang District, which is located at the south of the capital Jakarta, due to heavy rainfall in Indonesia, were provided with hygiene material set aid and psychosocial support.

After the earthquake with the magnitude of 7.2 on the Java Island of Indonesia in September, 500 food and 200 hygiene parcels were delivered to the people in need. Again, after the earthquake with the magnitude of 7.6 on the Java Island of Indonesia in September, food parcels for 300 families and hygiene sets for 300 families were delivered to the people in need in the region.

Approximately 35.000 beneficiaries were reached in 2009 (as of 12.30.2009) through the activities in Sultan Selim II Aceh Community Center, which was built on an area of 7.665 m<sup>2</sup> in Aceh for Indonesian Red Cross in 2006 *in order to increase the capacity of the Indonesian Red Cross* and includes social facilities such as sports facility, playground for children, cinema-theater hall, education hall and masjid.

### **Chile-2010**

On February 27, 2010, an earthquake with a magnitude of 8.8, which lasted about 1 minute, occurred at a depth of 59.4 km in the South Pacific Ocean, 115 km off the Concepción city with a population of 670.000, which is the country's second-largest settlement that is 325 kilometers away from Santiago, the capital of Chile.

In this context, within the coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency, approximately 18 tons of aid material consisting of 200 tents, 750 blankets, 100 food parcels and 200 kitchen sets was sent to the disaster area on 03.12.2010 by means of 2 military aircrafts allocated by the Turkish General Staff, and delivered to the Chilean Red Cross authorities on 03.15.2010 with a ceremony organized with the participation of official authorities.

### **Libya-2011**

After the internal turmoil in Libya, the Turkish Red Crescent initiated aid activities immediately under the coordination of the Turkish Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

With the Orhangazi-1 and Osmangazi-1 ferries departing to Libya on 02.23.2011, a food package for 15.500 persons, 17.576 bottles of water and 10.000 loaves of bread as well as 500 hygiene sets and medical supplies for Libyan Red Crescent were dispatched to the region and the evacuation operations were terminated.

Approximately 96 tons of food, shelter, hygiene and medical supplies were used within the scope of the evacuation activities.

Within the scope of the first dispatch, aid material weighing 716.158 kg, which consists of food, tents, shelter materials, medicine and medical supplies as well as 2 mobile kitchens, 1 mobile oven and 1 communication device were dispatched to the region on 03.11.2011 with the cargo ship named Fehim Bey departing from Mersin Port within the framework of the cooperation initiated between Turkey and the United Arab Emirates due to the ongoing internal conflicts in Libya. The aid ships arrived at Benghazi Port on 03.14.2011 and the aid materials were delivered to the Libyan Red Crescent.

Within the scope of the second dispatch, St. Vincent & Grenadines flagged Ro-Ro ship named Azzurra delivered humanitarian aid material weighing approximately 283.044 kg, which consists of food, shelter, hygiene and medical supplies, to the region on 02.04.2011 with the Turkish Red Crescent personnel consisting of 9 people. Through the same dispatch, 3 fully equipped ambulances needed in the region were also dispatched.

Within the scope of the third dispatch, pharmaceuticals and medical consumables of 12.020 kg were dispatched to Libya by means of air freighter as of 04.04.2011 under the coordination of T.R. Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency. Materials sent by airplane arrived in Benghazi and were delivered to the Libyan Red Crescent.

Within the scope of the fourth dispatch, approximately 836.834 kg of food, hygiene, medical supplies, satellite phone, and 2 ambulances were dispatched to Misirata, all of which were donated by Sistem İnşaat, to be reached to the people affected by the conflicts in Libya.

Within the scope of the fifth dispatch, medical consumables of 11.588 kg were dispatched by means of a military air freighter as of 05.04.2011 under the coordination of T.R. Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency.

Within the scope of the sixth dispatch, 1.143,325 kg of food parcels, hygiene kit and various clothes were dispatched to the region by sea as of 05.30.2011. The aid materials sent by this dispatch started to be distributed to the needy people within the framework of the plan established with the Libyan Red Crescent and Libyan Humanitarian Aid Committee, and some of the clothes were dispatched to the Misrata Branch with the volunteers of the Libyan Red Crescent Misrata Branch and distributed to the needy people before the Ramadan Feast.

Within the scope of the last dispatch, a total of 21.704 kg of food supplies were delivered to the needy people from air by parachute due to the ongoing conflict in the region.

### **Myanmar - Bangladesh - 2012**

Within the framework of the intervention to the humanitarian crisis occurred in Arakan province of Myanmar due to the ethnic conflicts between Muslims and Buddhists, Myanmar Humanitarian Relief Operation was initiated in May and

October 2012, as the result of the meetings of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Thein Sein, and Minister of Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung and when the request by TİKA and Turkish Red Crescent to deliver necessary humanitarian aid to both groups affected by the incidents was approved by Myanmar government.

Based on the 5-year Cooperation Agreement signed between the Turkish Red Crescent and the Red Cross of Myanmar on August 20, 2012; the distribution of basic humanitarian aid materials, especially aid of rice that is the main foodstuff in the region, has started to be realized in Muslim and Buddhist camps in the region since this date. In the year 2013, the aids consisting of food, hygiene kits and cleaning equipment, which are both dispatched from Turkey and obtained from locals, have been delivered to 59.692 families (298.460 people). However, humanitarian aid distribution activities in the region continued in coordination with Myanmar Red Cross.

By delivering food packages and sacrificial meat to Arakanese Muslims who took refuge in Bangladesh due to the conflicts in Myanmar as well as Arakanese and Bangladeshi people in need, who are currently struggling to survived in camps in Cox's Bazar, in 2013, by completing 40 water wells at Tal camp, and by cash assistance projects carried out for the families of 382 people who lost their lives due to the collapse of Rana Plaza textile plant, a total of 43.725 families (233.627 people) were reached. However, humanitarian aid distribution activities in the region continued in coordination with Bangladesh Red Crescent.

#### **Palestine-2014**

The activities carried out by the Red Crescent due to the air operation continuing in Gaza since July 8th and the subsequent land operation started are as follows: Within the framework of the campaign conducted in collaboration with the Turkish Red Crescent and the Social Security Institution, donations in kind made by pharmaceutical and medical firms last week were collected in the warehouses of the Turkish Red Crescent Marmara Regional Disaster Management Center in Kartal, Istanbul. 20 tons of medical aid consisting of pharmaceuticals, medical consumables, and medical device items were dispatched by Turkish Airlines 'air freighter on July 27, 2014, from Istanbul Atatürk Airport to Tel Aviv Ben Gurion Airport. With the completion of the customs procedures of medical aid, medical aid was dispatched to Kerem Shalom Gate from Ben Gurion Airport to be delivered to Gaza today (July 29, 2014). The transfer and delivery of the mentioned medical aids from Kerem Shalom Gate to Gaza has been completed as of 18:00.

In addition, food package aid was also made to 2.360 families who were displaced by the team personnel currently operating in Gaza.

#### **Yemen-2017**

The vessel named MV BLUE FURY, which carries the aid materials in the framework of the dispatch of 11.000 tons of various aid materials sent to Yemen by sea, docked at İskenderun Yazıcı Port on 06.24.2017 and left the İskenderun Yazıcı Port on 07.06.2017 after the loading of aid materials, and began its course towards the port of Aden in Yemen to the accompaniment of the frigate commissioned by

Turkish Naval Forces Command. The evacuation works of the aid ship reaching the port of Aden in Yemen on 07.24.2017 were completed. Approximately 11.000 tons of humanitarian aid material consisting of 10.000 tons of flour, 2 field hospitals, 50 tons of medicine, 100 wheelchairs, 2.880 parcels of baby biscuits, 160 tons of pasta, 330 hygiene packages, 200.000 chlorine tablets, 15.000 slippers, and 13.141 food parcels were dispatched.

### **Palestine-2017**

*Support was provided to the Palestine Red Crescent Logistics Center Construction project.* Within the scope of our country's aid commitment of US \$200 million, the construction of the logistics center, which was drawn by the Palestinian Red Crescent, was decided to be carried out within the scope of the 2.000.000.00-USD budget project realized with the funds transferred by AFAD, and the project continued throughout 2017.

Support was provided to *Health Projects*. Within the scope of the US \$ 200 million aid commitment of Turkey, the projects received from the Ministry of Health of Gaza have been evaluated within the scope of the 1.000.000,00-USD budget project realized with the funds transferred by AFAD and the supports are continued as follows:

- Al Huda Diabetic Foot Center: Meeting the medical supplies needs of the center,
- Al Huda Health Center Rehabilitation Project: Rehabilitation of emergency department,
- Project of Medical Equipment Supply to Gaza Eye Hospital: Meeting the medical device needs of the eye hospital,
- Project of Medical Device Supply to Şifa Health Center and Abu Yusuf Al-Najjar Hospital: Supply of X-ray device,
- Al Wafa Hospital Support Project: Meeting the medical device, medicine, diesel fuel and food needs of Al Wafa Hospital,
- Al Quds Hospital Support Project: Supply of the medical materials needed by the Palestinian Red Crescent Al Quds Hospital.

### **Indonesia-2018**

After the Sulawesi earthquake on 09.28.2018, more than 2.100 people lost their lives due to the earthquake and tsunami. After the disaster, 2 staff from the Delegation of Bangladesh were assigned to Indonesia on 30.09.2018, 3 staff from Turkey, 250 tents and 1,000 sleeping bags were delivered to Balou via 2 military air freighter on 10/09/2018. On October 2, a cash aid of USD10.000 was granted to the Indonesian Red Cross to meet urgent needs due to the Sulawesi Earthquake.

Following the investigations carried out in the region on 10.10.2018, food packages were distributed to 200 families (1.000 people) at the Red Crescent distribution point.

It was ensured that 250 tents dispatched from Turkey to the region via military air freighter were installed in the Balaroa region with Indonesia Red Cross (PMI). The number of beneficiaries is approximately 1.500.

Aid materials consisting of 2.500 pieces of tarpaulin, 2.740 pieces of food packages (764 of them are Donations of Goodness Association), 2.011 pieces of hygiene packages, 1.000 pieces of family support kits, 1.500 pieces of water cans, 5.000 pieces of masks, 2.000 pieces of raincoat were distributed at the locations seemingly in need, especially Red Crescent Camp. The children's playground at Red Crescent Camp was renovated.

### **Afghanistan-2018**

It is envisaged that the illegal immigration will be greatly reduced if the Afghan citizens who voluntarily repatriate from our country to Afghanistan and/or are deported from our country are supported with the project of developing means of livelihood in their countries.

Within the scope of "Support Project After Voluntary Repatriation" that has been initiated within this frame, it has been resolved that the needy persons who repatriated voluntarily to Afghanistan from Turkey shall be provided with shops that suit their professions in cooperation with Afghanistan Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations, and that the renovations and refurbishment of the shop as well as the rent expenses for 5 months according to the income status of the beneficiary shall be covered by Turkish Red Crescent.

### **General Review and Conclusion: Global Governance and Peace**

The creation of the environments that ensure meeting the basic needs of individuals of a nation as well as higher-level requirements forms the basic philosophy of the 'Humanitarian Development Approach'. The approach that associates the development of the nations with economic growth and the numeric values expressing the growth weakened after the 1980s and was replaced by a humanitarian development approach. This approach considers the growth of production and wealth as a precondition and a beginning and places humans at the center of development. It, therefore, considers '*the development of human potential*' as the basic proposition.

In the 21st century, '*Development Aids*' has started to become more programmed in international cooperation. Aids that extend beyond the borders of the country in question are also a reflection of the internal dynamics of a state. It is even part of its historical identity. Therefore, development aids for countries at the international level have gained strategic importance. For this reason, development aids are now considered as an indispensable instrument of *public diplomacy*, effective strategic communication management of countries.

Therefore, the capacity of a country's soft power, which is also defined as '*value-based power*', also refers to the success of the effective public diplomacy of that country. Public diplomacy is accepted as a technical tool that governs the relations of countries with other countries in foreign policy applications. Not all processes experienced by people with different belonging in different geographies are independent of each other. Thus, *Humanitarian Diplomacy*, as a derivative of public

diplomacy, develops on this awareness. And today it has become a responsibility, not a choice, for all international actors.

*Turkish Red Crescent* is both the most important carrier of this responsibility in Turkey and a diplomatic actor that conveys the values and priorities of Turkey in the international arena. Each stage in its history corresponds to a component of *Humanitarian Diplomacy*. *Turkish Red Crescent*, one of the most important *humanitarian diplomacy* actors of Turkey, has been an organization that corresponds to the new priorities and values of changing international relations and diplomacy process with its history of nearly 150 years. The concepts expressed in corporate values and principles are building blocks that ensure the transformation of traditional diplomacy.

According to the data of the International Aid Directorate of Turkish Red Crescent operating in this context, we see that aid has been provided to forty-five (45) countries of the world, a financial support of USD 30 million has been provided to these countries and thus aid has been provided to seven (7) million people in the world by 2018. The number of people reached for aid can be considered one of the most fundamental indicators of the power of existence of humanitarian diplomacy. In this context, it is observed that the number of people reached by the Turkish Red Crescent increases every year. As Turkey has gained the reputation of the most generous country of the world in 2015; even considering the acceleration after 2015, this rising acceleration is clearly encountered. It is determined that 3.45 million people in 2015, 5.65 million people in 2016, 6.85 million people in 2017 and 7 million people in 2018 have been given a helping hand.

According to the research data, it is found that what makes the country the most generous country in the world is the share of 0.75 percent that it has allocated from its gross national product. Today, Turkey, which surpasses the USA with its humanitarian aid capacity of more than \$8 billion, is the country that does humanitarian aid the most in the world. It is also one of the most compassionate countries in the world, with its approximately 4.5 million refugees from 70 different citizenship. Today, the most comprehensive protection program in the world is being implemented through the Red Crescent, providing protection and humanitarian support to approximately 2 million refugees from 70 different citizenships.

Thus, the primary goal of Turkey's foreign policy is to promote peace and stability environment in the neighboring countries and nearby geography experiencing instability. In this context, we see that Turkey performs works that suit its leading country role in *Humanitarian Diplomacy* through the soft power it has been conducting within the scope of development aids that have recently been reformed according to Amartya Sen's approach. Therefore, it becomes clear that Turkey fulfills its historical responsibility at the international level.

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