



VOLunteers in ACTION : Raising Awareness For Volunteer Fire Fighters”

VOLinACT , 2020-1-EL01-KA204-078872

Good Practice from TURKEY

1st Good Practice

Voluntary Mobilization Against Forest Fires

1. Title of the activity or event

Voluntary Mobilization Against Forest Fires

2. Objectives/aims expected by this action

Since 11 September 2019, fighting with forest fires in Turkey has been enhanced by participation of certified, equipped and identified volunteers. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Regulation about volunteers taking part in combatting forest fires entered into force, published in the official newspaper. In the regulation the legal identification, quality, duty, responsibility, education level, necessary equipment and clothe of the volunteers are established. According to the Regulation, people who want to be volunteers in combatting forest fires will apply to the Regional or General Forest Management Authority and a commission will make a decision about giving them volunteer status.

3. Target group (or groups)

Every Turkish citizen over the age of 18 can volunteer in combating forest fires within the scope of this regulation.

4. Description of the activity (methods, materials, human and physical resources, timing, etc.) and Steps for the implementation (operative steps to implement the good practice)

Candidate volunteers will be educated in theoretical and practical way about first aid, how to use protective equipment, work safety, means benefited in forest fires. At the end of the education, candidates having 70 or more score in the exam will be able to be the volunteers combatting in forest fires taking their participation documents. Necessary condition is to complete theoretical and practical education about dealing with forest fires and to have certification for candidates to obtain volunteer status. Volunteers will have identity card and their equipment will be renewed in every 2 years. Volunteers will be provided with new equipment and personnel protective kit by General Directorate of Forest Management Authority. If there is an owner of the forest, then the owner will provide the mentioned equipment. Reaching to the fire place with necessary equipment, interfering into the accidents that have taken a place during fire event and putting out the fire, implementing first aid will be among the responsibilities of the volunteers.



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Died, injured or crippled volunteers will be under the cover of the Regulation about compensation payment for the people being dead or disabled as a result of fire event. During the volunteer theoretical and practical education, candidate volunteers' cost of food, accommodation and transportation expenses will be met by the General Directorate of Forest Management.

5. Impact of the good practice and evaluation of the results achieved

Since during the volunteer theoretical and practical education, candidate volunteers' cost of food, accommodation and transportation expenses will be met by the General Directorate of Forest Management; this situation increased the number of volunteers. Also candidate volunteers who will have esteemed success will be given certificate of appreciation by the General Directorate of Forest Management.

6. Conclusions

This practice which aimed to increase voluntary mobilization against forest fires strengthened the voluntary practices and increased the numbers of trained and equipped, certified identity of "volunteers".



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2nd Good Practice

Neighbourhood Disaster Support Project (NDSP) in Turkey

1. Title of the activity or event

Neighbourhood Disaster Support Project (NDSP) in Turkey

2. Objectives/aims expected by this action

The most critical period to save lives after a disaster is the first 72 hours. Most people are rescued by relatives and neighbours rushing for help within the first 24 hours, usually with little or no equipment and training, before the professional responders arrive. Therefore, by keeping in mind the following objectives the NDSP project had been realized in Turkey after 1999 earthquakes in order to improve neighbourhood-based rescue potential during critical hours by providing training, equipment, and an efficient and sustainable organizational structure; to improve cooperation and coordination with professional responders and to raise disaster awareness level within the community and to inform civilians on the disaster risks and precautions.

3. Target group (or groups)

Men and women between the age of 18-55 who are residing and planning to stay in the neighbourhood for a long time, are good team players and dedicated to volunteerism, have no serious physical handicap or health problem and have no record of conviction of a felony are the main target group of this initiative.

4. Description of the activity (methods, materials, human and physical resources, timing, etc.)

As the main activity of this Neighbourhood Disaster Support (NDS) Centres have been established in several cities. Neighbourhood Disaster Support Committees have been formed, trained and activated. The NDS model has been created and is being tested under various conditions. Institutionalization efforts are under way to insure sustainability of the model. MAG Equipment's can be classified under two main categories which are personal equipments and team equipments. While personal equipments contain helmet and head torch, reflective overalls, steel toed boots, flashlight, gloves, dust mask, goggles, safety belt, rope and backpack; team equipments contain 2 generators, halogen lamps, electric concrete piercing equipment, hydraulic jacks, iron cutters, pick axes, shovels, sledgehammers and hand-held two-way radios etc.

5. Steps for the implementation (operative steps to implement the good practice)

In order to be a MAG (or in English Neighbourhood Disaster Volunteers) a person has to complete the following basic training programme.

Subject	Course Duration (hours)
Disaster Awareness & Preparedness	2
Disaster Psychology	2
Basic Firefighting	8
Basic First Aid	12
Basic Search and Rescue	14



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6. Impact of the good practice and evaluation of the results achieved

As a result of these applications a total of 5008 MAGs (Neighbourhood Disaster Volunteers) from 109 neighbourhoods located within different provinces have completed the standard basic training program. Neighbourhood Disaster Support Centres also established in those provinces which are specially designed for the disasters. Also there are special containers which are placed at a safe and easily accessible location in the neighbourhood and the MAG equipment is stored in this container.

7. Conclusions

This practice which aimed to increase voluntary mobilization for disaster issues strengthened the voluntary practices and increased the numbers of trained and equipped "volunteers" in country level.



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