

PROJECT NAME:	ISTANBUL SEISMIC RISK MITIGATION AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROJECT
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LOAN AMOUNT: EURO 310 million

DURATION: 2005- 2010

World Bank Task Team Leader: Wael Zakout
E-mail: wzakout@worldbank.org

World Bank Ankara Office Contact: Ibrahim Sirer
Tel: (90 312) 459 83 63 Fax: (90 312) 446 24 42
E-mail: isirer@worldbank.org

Counterpart Agency Contact: Kazim Gökhan Elgin, Director of Istanbul Project Coordination Unit (IPCU)
Tel: (90 212) 518 55 00 Fax: (90 212) 518 55 05
E-mail: [e-mail: ipkb@istanbul.gov.tr](mailto:ipkb@istanbul.gov.tr)

BACKGROUND: Turkey is highly vulnerable to natural disasters, particularly earthquakes. In the 1999 Marmara earthquakes, the death toll reached over 17,000 with a direct economic impact estimated at about US\$5 billion, or around 2.5 percent of GNP. Within the nation's high-risk context, Istanbul is most vulnerable because of its seismic-prone location on the North Anatolian Fault, and its high population and commercial/industrial densities. According to recent assessments, the probability of a major earthquake affecting Istanbul in the next 30 years is $62\% \pm 12\%$, while the likelihood of such a devastation in the next decade is $32\% \pm 12\%$. If a seismic event of the same magnitude as that in 1999 were to occur near Istanbul, the human suffering as well as the social, economic, and environmental impacts would be dramatically higher than in the Marmara region, as Istanbul is not only the financial, cultural and industrial center of the country, but is also a nexus of inter-continental importance and home of about 15 million people. An interruption of Istanbul's social, economic and financial life would be felt for many years to come.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE: The proposed project will initiate a process that aims at transforming Istanbul in the next 10-20 years into a city resilient to major earthquake. The overall goal of the proposed project is to save lives and reduce the social, economic and financial impacts in the event of future earthquakes. The specific objective of the project is to improve the city of Istanbul's preparedness for a potential earthquake through enhancing the institutional and technical capacity for disaster management and emergency response, strengthening critical public facilities for earthquake resistance, and supporting measures for better enforcement of building codes and land use plans.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project consists of the following components and activities:

Component A: Enhancing Emergency Preparedness. The objective of this component is to enhance the effectiveness and capacity of the provincial and municipal public safety organizations in Istanbul to prepare for, respond to and recover from significant emergencies, especially those arising from earthquakes. Specifically, the component will support: improvement of emergency communications systems; establishment of an emergency management information system; strengthening of institutional capacity of AYM – Istanbul Governorship Disaster Management Center; upgrading of emergency response capacity in Istanbul; and public awareness and training.

Component B: Seismic Risk Mitigation for Public Facilities. The objective of this component is to reduce the risk of future earthquake damage to critical facilities and lifelines in order to save lives and ensure their continued functioning in the event of an earthquake. The component will consist of the following key activities: retrofitting/reconstruction of priority public facilities such as hospitals, clinics,

schools, administrative buildings and infrastructure, etc.; risk assessment of lifelines and vital infrastructure; and risk assessment of cultural heritage buildings.

Component C: Enforcement of Building Codes. The objective of this component is to support innovative approaches to better enforcement of building codes and compliance with land use plans. The component will support: public awareness campaigns; further development of regulatory framework for enforcement of building codes enforcement land use plans; volunteer accreditation/training of engineers; and streamlining of building permits issuance procedures and promoting transparency and accountability in selected district municipalities.

IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING: Responsibility for project implementation and monitoring is vested in the Istanbul Project Coordination Unit (IPCU) established under the Istanbul Special Provincial Administration (ISPA). The IPCU will work closely with Istanbul Governor's Office and various government agencies involved in the implementation of the respective components. The IPCU will monitor implementation process and prepare relevant progress reports. Particular attention will be given to the financial and procurement aspects of implementation and the environmental and social monitoring.

BENEFITS: The project will benefit, in particular, the 15 million inhabitants of Istanbul by mitigating the risk of an earthquake and preparing the city and its population for a potential disaster. More broadly, decreased vulnerability of Istanbul will benefit the country in economic, financial and social sense, since major losses to the metropolis of this importance would dramatically affect Turkey as a whole.

PROJECT STATUS: The project became effective in February 2006 and its implementation is in progress.

RESULTS ON THE GROUND: The seismic retrofitting of 9 schools is ongoing and retrofitting designs for 118 facilities (out of 257) were completed. The contracts for the strengthening of 2 hospitals and 100 schools, and the reconstruction of 14 schools are about to be signed. The hardware and furnishing for the newly constructed Istanbul Governorship back-up Disaster Management Center was procured, and several packages of medical equipment and search and rescue vehicles were delivered for the emergency response services of Istanbul. Also, two studies on municipal information system and public land management were completed and will guide implementation of measures for better enforcement of building codes in two pilot municipalities.