



RISE

Resilient
Institutions &
Societies for
Emergencies

Disaster Preparedness and
Risk Reduction Directorate

June 2025 – June 2026

RISE

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Institutions &
Societies for
Emergencies

This report summarizes the progress achieved under **the Resilient Institutions and Societies for Emergencies (RISE) Project**, a Disaster Risk Reduction initiative implemented by the Turkish Red Crescent in partnership with the German Red Cross. It highlights key activities, milestones, achievements, and developments throughout the reporting period, while providing an overview of the project's contribution to strengthening institutional and community resilience in Türkiye.



Turkish Red Crescent, Ankara, 2026

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Foreword

Over the past years, Türkiye has continued to face a wide range of disaster and climate-related risks, including earthquakes, floods, wildfires, landslides, and extreme weather events. These challenges have demonstrated once again the importance of investing not only in emergency response capacities, but also in preparedness, disaster risk reduction, and community resilience.

Recognising this need, the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), with the support of the German Red Cross (GRC), launched the Resilient Institutions and Societies for Emergencies (RISE) Project. The project represents an important step towards strengthening institutional capacities while supporting communities to better understand, prepare for, and manage disaster risks.

Throughout the reporting period, the project focused on establishing strong foundations for long-term resilience programming. Significant progress was achieved through the development of the Turkish Red Crescent Community Resilience Approach, the establishment of the Community Resilience Technical Working Group, the implementation of Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (eVCA), the formation of Community Resilience Committees, and capacity-building initiatives on Anticipatory Action and preparedness.

One of the most valuable lessons learned throughout this process has been the importance of community participation and local ownership. Building resilience requires collective effort, strong partnerships, and meaningful engagement with communities, institutions, volunteers, and local stakeholders.

As we move forward, the RISE Project will continue to strengthen institutional preparedness, support community-led resilience initiatives, and promote innovative approaches that help reduce disaster risks and the humanitarian impacts of climate-related hazards.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all colleagues, volunteers, communities, partners, and stakeholders who have contributed to the implementation of the project. Their commitment and collaboration have been instrumental in the progress achieved to date.

We look forward to continuing this journey together towards safer, more resilient, and better-prepared communities across Türkiye.

Nurdal DURMUŞ
Director General of Disaster and Community Services
Turkish Red Crescent

Why **RISE** ?

Türkiye remains highly exposed to earthquakes, floods, wildfires, landslides, and climate-related hazards. Recent disasters, including the February 2023 earthquakes and increasing climate-related risks, have highlighted the need for stronger disaster risk reduction (DRR), preparedness, and resilience-building efforts.

The project aims to strengthen institutional capacities, enhance community resilience, and promote risk-informed approaches through technical capacity development, community engagement, and preparedness initiatives.

During the reporting period, the project focused on establishing the foundations for long-term resilience programming by strengthening institutional systems, developing technical capacities, promoting community participation, and advancing preparedness efforts.

Key Achievements

- The Community Resilience Technical Working Group was established.
- Development of the Turkish Red Crescent Community Resilience Approach (TRCS-CRA) was initiated.
- eVCA Training of Trainers and eVCA Training programmes were delivered.
- Community-based assessment processes were initiated in selected project locations.
- Community Resilience Committees were established.
- Anticipatory Action capacity-building activities were implemented.
- Preparatory work related to institutional readiness for a potential Marmara earthquake was initiated.
- Community awareness and engagement activities, including Heat Action Day initiatives, were implemented.

Main Challenges

- Establishing new institutional approaches required extensive consultation and coordination.
- Community-based resilience processes require time to build trust and ownership.
- Simultaneous implementation of institutional and community-level activities required strong coordination.
- Emerging climate-related risks continue to require adaptive programming approaches.

Despite these challenges, implementation progressed according to project objectives and established a strong foundation for future activities.



1. Project Overview

Background

Türkiye remains highly exposed to earthquakes, floods, wildfires, landslides, and climate-related hazards. The increasing frequency and intensity of disasters highlight the need for stronger disaster risk reduction, preparedness, and resilience-building efforts.

The RISE Project was developed to strengthen both institutional and community capacities and contribute to safer, better-prepared, and more resilient communities across Türkiye.

The project aligns with:

- [Turkish Red Crescent Strategic Plan 2030](#);
- [IFRC Roadmap to Community Resilience \(R2CR\)](#);
- [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030](#); and
- [National Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness Framework \(TARAP\)](#)

Project Goal

To strengthen the ability of targeted communities, schools, and the Turkish Red Crescent to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and climate-related risks.



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Developing the Community Resilience Approach (TRCS-CRA)

Governance and Project Structure

The RISE Project is implemented by the Disaster Risk Reduction Department under the Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction Directorate, which operates within the Directorate General of Disaster and Community Services of the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC).

The project is coordinated through a multi-level governance structure that brings together technical experts, headquarters support units, regional teams, and strategic partners. This structure promotes institutional ownership, cross-departmental collaboration, and alignment with national and international disaster risk reduction priorities.

Implementation is supported by technical experts working across disaster risk reduction, preparedness, community engagement, volunteer management, public health, migration, psychosocial support, finance, procurement, and monitoring functions.

Through this collaborative structure, the project contributes to strengthening institutional resilience while supporting the development of sustainable community resilience mechanisms.

Building an Institutional Framework for Resilience

One of the key priorities of the RISE Project has been the development of the Turkish Red Crescent Community Resilience Approach (TRCS-CRA).

The approach is being developed through a participatory and cross-departmental process, drawing on the IFRC Roadmap to Community Resilience (R2CR), lessons learned from previous community-based initiatives, and practical experiences from disaster-prone communities across Türkiye.

The development process seeks to establish a harmonised framework that can guide future community resilience programming and strengthen collaboration among Turkish Red Crescent structures operating at national and local levels.

The approach promotes preparedness, disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, community participation, and local ownership.



Community Resilience Technical Working Group

To support the development of the TRCS-CRA, a Community Resilience Technical Working Group (TWG) was established.

The group brings together representatives from preparedness, response, recovery, volunteer management, branch services, public health and psychosocial support, migration services, organisational development, and other relevant units.

Key Achievements

- Technical Working Group established;
- Regular coordination meetings conducted;
- Community Resilience Approach (TRCS-CRA) development initiated;
- Cross-department collaboration strengthened; and
- Institutional discussions on resilience programming advanced.



TWG meeting

Strengthening Technical Capacity

Istanbul 6.2 Earthquake Lessons Learned Workshop

Following the 6.2 magnitude Istanbul earthquake that occurred on 23 April 2025, the “Istanbul Earthquake Lessons Learned Workshop” was organized to assess institutional preparedness and operational capacities related to a potential large-scale earthquake scenario in Istanbul. The workshop brought together Turkish Red Crescent technical units, operational teams, and relevant stakeholders to evaluate response capacities, coordination mechanisms, preparedness gaps, and operational lessons learned. Recommendations generated during the workshop contributed to strengthening future preparedness planning and institutional readiness efforts within the scope of the RISE Project.

RISE Inception Workshop – Ankara

The official implementation process of the RISE Project was launched through the RISE Inception Workshop held in Ankara on 18 June 2025. The workshop brought together representatives from relevant Turkish Red Crescent departments, Disaster Management Centers, technical experts, and project stakeholders to establish a common understanding of the project’s objectives, implementation structure, coordination mechanisms, and expected outputs. The event also contributed to strengthening institutional ownership and interdepartmental coordination for the upcoming implementation phases.

R2R via eVCA Implementer / Facilitator Training - Ankara

The eVCA Training of Trainers (ToT) conducted in Ankara between 18–22 August 2025 served as a core R2R via eVCA Implementer/Facilitator capacity-building activity under the RISE Project. The training focused on strengthening technical competencies related to the Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (eVCA) methodology, participatory community engagement, facilitation techniques, and community-based disaster risk assessment approaches. Practical exercises, simulations, and group work sessions were integrated into the training to strengthen facilitation and field implementation capacities.

Project Cycle & Management Training - Ankara

The Project Cycle and Management Training was conducted in Ankara between 7–11 October 2025 under the RISE Project capacity strengthening component. The training aimed to enhance participants’ knowledge and practical skills related to project planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting, coordination, and risk management processes. The training also contributed to strengthening institutional project management capacities within TRCS through practical exercises and group-based learning approaches.



2025 Resilience Congress Participation – Elaziğ

Project representatives participated in the 2025 Resilience Congress organized in Elaziğ between 13–17 October 2025 as part of the project’s knowledge-sharing and institutional learning efforts. The congress provided an important platform for exchanging experiences and discussing current approaches related to disaster risk reduction, resilience building, preparedness, and community-based implementation practices. Participation contributed to strengthening institutional networking and visibility in the field of DRR.

Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (eVCA) Training - Ankara

An Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (eVCA) Training was organised in Ankara from 4–8 August 2025.

The training strengthened participants’ capacities in conducting participatory risk assessments and facilitating community engagement processes.

Participation in International Trainings and Meetings

Project representatives actively participated in several international trainings, workshops, and coordination meetings related to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), community resilience, and eVCA methodologies throughout the reporting period.

Between 24–28 March 2025, project representatives attended the International DRR Congress held in Berlin, Germany. The congress provided an opportunity to follow current global discussions, innovative approaches, and emerging practices related to disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, resilience building, and anticipatory action. Participation in the congress contributed to strengthening institutional knowledge, international networking, and alignment with global DRR frameworks and practices.

In September 2025, project representatives also participated in the “DRR in Fragile, Conflict and Violence (FCV) Settings Training of Trainers (ToT)” organized by the German Red Cross in Berlin on 22–23 September 2025. The training focused on practical approaches and tools for strengthening National Society capacities in fragile, conflict, and violence-affected contexts. Following the training, representatives attended the annual Global DRR Working Group Meeting of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement held in Berlin between 24–26 September 2025. The meeting provided an opportunity to contribute to discussions on future DRR priorities, coordination mechanisms, and implementation planning within the Movement.

In addition, between 25 October and 1 November 2025, representatives of the RISE Project participated as observers in the Palestine eVCA evaluation workshops. The visit enabled the team to observe practical implementation experiences, lessons learned, and participatory community assessment methodologies applied in different operational contexts. The experience contributed to institutional learning and supported the further adaptation of eVCA implementation approaches within the RISE Project.

Topics Covered

- Community mapping;
- Hazard analysis;
- Seasonal calendars;
- Vulnerability and capacity assessment;
- Facilitation techniques; and
- Community action planning.

Key Outcomes

- Increased understanding of participatory assessment methodologies;
- Strengthened facilitation skills;
- Improved capacity for community engagement; and
- Preparation for field-based eVCA implementation.

Project Evaluation and Planning Workshop – Ankara

A Project Evaluation and Planning Workshop was conducted between 27–29 January 2026 to review the implementation progress achieved during the 2025 reporting period and to strengthen planning processes for the 2026 implementation phase. The workshop brought together relevant technical teams and project stakeholders to assess operational achievements, coordination mechanisms, implementation challenges, and lessons learned from the first implementation year.

The workshop also served as a platform to refine activity planning, strengthen coordination structures, review implementation methodologies, and identify priority actions for the upcoming period. Findings and recommendations generated during the workshop directly contributed to the revision of implementation plans and operational roadmaps for 2026.

Anticipatory Action Training - Ankara

To support this process, an Anticipatory Action Training was organised in Ankara from 4-7 May 2026 under the RISE Project.

The training brought together representatives from different the Turkish Red Crescent departments as well as key national stakeholders involved in disaster risk management, forecasting, climate services, and preparedness.

Participants included representatives from:

- The Turkish Red Crescent departments and technical units;
- The Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD);
- The Turkish State Meteorological Service;
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry;
- The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC);
- The German Red Cross (GRC).

The training was delivered with contributions from experts from the German Red Cross and the Anticipation Hub, providing participants with opportunities to explore global experiences, practical applications, and emerging approaches in Anticipatory Action.



Baseline Study

As an initial step of the RISE Project, baseline studies were conducted across the six target provinces to establish an evidence base for future resilience programming and community engagement activities.

The study was implemented through a Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) approach and included surveys, stakeholder consultations, community meetings, and field observations. Community members, volunteers, local stakeholders, and institutions contributed to the data collection process, helping identify local vulnerabilities, capacities, hazards, and preparedness levels.

The findings provided a comprehensive understanding of community needs, existing resources, and priority risk areas, while also informing the design and implementation of subsequent project activities.

Building on the results of the baseline study, Community Resilience Committees were established and eVCA processes were initiated to support community-led resilience planning. In the next phase, the project will expand its focus to schools through School-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (SBDRR) activities, strengthening preparedness and resilience among students, teachers, and school communities.



Community Resilience Committees

From Assessment to Action

Community Resilience Committees were established in the six target provinces following the Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (eVCA) processes conducted under the RISE Project. The committees serve as a platform for community members, volunteers, local authorities, and other stakeholders to jointly identify risks, prioritise needs, and develop locally led solutions that strengthen resilience and preparedness.

As a core mechanism for community participation and local ownership, the committees brought together individuals from diverse backgrounds and supported inclusive decision-making processes. Committee participated in a structured capacity-strengthening programme covering the Turkish Red Crescent Community Resilience Approach (TRCS-CRA), disaster risk reduction concepts, resilience terminology, and participatory assessment methodologies, helping them develop a shared understanding of local risks, vulnerabilities, capacities, and priorities.

As part of the eVCA process, committee conducted secondary data reviews, stakeholder mapping, community mapping exercises, field observations, and community walks. These activities enabled participants to validate existing information, identify risk hotspots, better understand local challenges and capacities, and collect community knowledge through direct engagement with residents, local businesses, community networks, and service providers.

Particular attention was given to inclusiveness and accessibility throughout the process. Lessons learned from working with older persons and persons with disabilities informed facilitation methods and community engagement approaches, contributing to more accessible and participatory resilience planning.

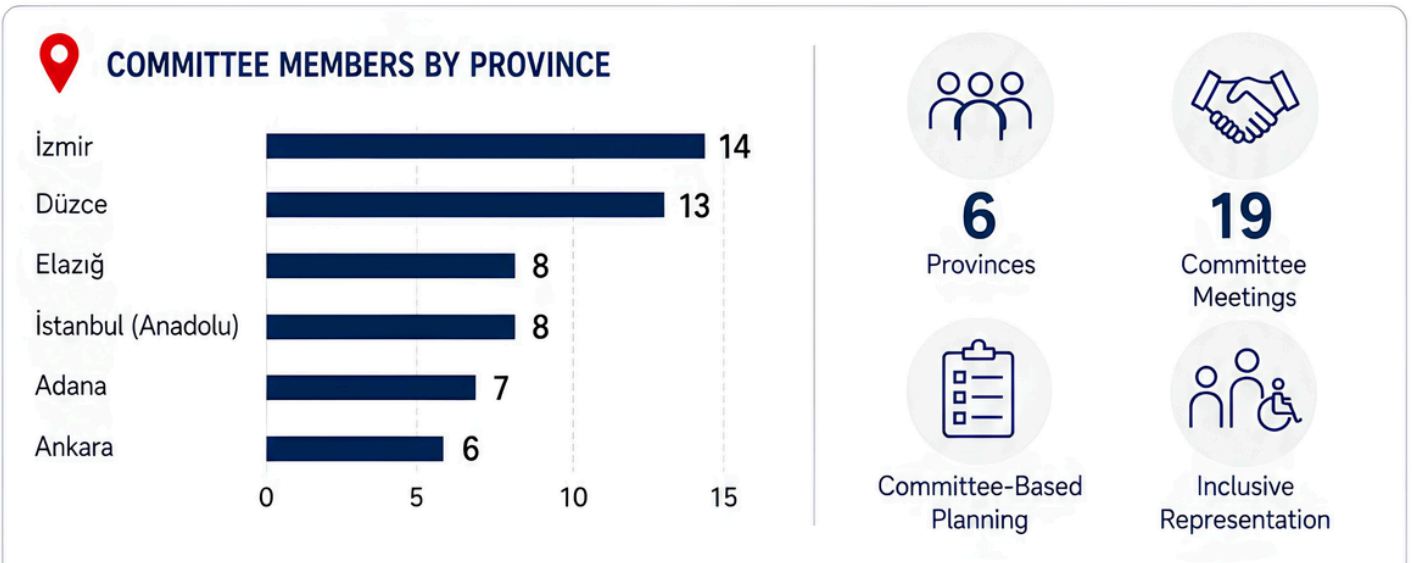
The committees also fostered collaboration among community members, volunteers, schools, local institutions, and other stakeholders. By bringing together different perspectives and sources of knowledge, they helped transform assessment findings into locally relevant priorities and practical actions, providing the foundation for Community Action Plans and future resilience initiatives under the RISE Project.

Beyond the assessment phase, the committees strengthened local ownership, reinforced community networks, and established sustainable structures that can continue supporting preparedness, risk reduction, and community engagement beyond the project period.

56

Committee Members Engaged

Unique community members, volunteers, local stakeholders and committee representatives involved in eVCA processes and resilience planning activities across 6 provinces.



i In addition to 56 unique committee members, a total of 147 participations were recorded across 19 committee meetings.



Adana

The Community Resilience Committee established in Adana brought together community members, volunteers, local stakeholders, and institutions to identify local risks and resilience priorities through participatory approaches. Committee members actively contributed to eVCA activities, including stakeholder mapping, community discussions, and field observations.

Through the assessment process, participants explored local vulnerabilities, capacities, and risk factors affecting the community. The committee provided a platform for inclusive dialogue and encouraged collaboration among different stakeholders, helping ensure that local perspectives informed resilience planning efforts.

The outputs generated through the process contributed to the development of Community Action Plans and laid the foundation for future preparedness, awareness-raising, and community-led resilience activities.

Ankara

The Community Resilience Committee established in Ankara played an active role in supporting the implementation of eVCA activities and strengthening community participation throughout the assessment process. Committee members contributed to community mapping, stakeholder engagement, field observations, and risk identification exercises, helping to build a comprehensive understanding of local vulnerabilities and capacities.

A particular focus was placed on heat-related risks. Through local heat mapping activities, committee members identified priority areas affected by increasing temperatures and contributed to discussions on potential adaptation measures. The findings informed awareness-raising activities implemented during Heat Action Day, which focused on indoor heat risks and practical household-level adaptation actions.

The committee continues to support the development of Community Action Plans and future resilience initiatives, strengthening collaboration between community members, local stakeholders, and institutions.



Düzce

The Community Resilience Committee established in Düzce supported the implementation of participatory assessment activities under the RISE Project. Committee members took part in stakeholder mapping, community discussions, field observations, and risk identification exercises aimed at improving the understanding of local vulnerabilities, capacities, and resilience priorities.

Through the eVCA process, participants examined disaster and climate-related risks affecting the community and identified existing resources, community networks, and local capacities that could contribute to preparedness and resilience. The committee provided an inclusive platform where community members, volunteers, local institutions, and stakeholders could exchange knowledge and jointly explore solutions to locally identified challenges.

The assessment findings contributed to the development of Community Action Plans and strengthened local ownership of resilience-building efforts. The committee continues to support community engagement, awareness-raising, and preparedness activities while promoting collaboration among local actors and community members.

Elazığ

The Community Resilience Committee established in Elazığ played an important role in supporting community-based assessment and resilience planning activities. Through participatory approaches, committee members contributed to stakeholder engagement, field observations, community mapping exercises, and discussions focused on local risks and preparedness needs.

The committee facilitated dialogue among community members, volunteers, local institutions, and other stakeholders, creating opportunities to better understand vulnerabilities and capacities within the neighbourhood. These activities helped identify priority issues affecting community resilience and strengthened local participation throughout the assessment process.

The outputs generated through the committee process informed the development of Community Action Plans and future resilience initiatives. Beyond the assessment phase, the committee continues to serve as a platform for community participation, local ownership, and collaboration in preparedness and risk reduction efforts.



Istanbul (Anatolia)

The Community Resilience Committee established in Istanbul's Anatolian side supported local resilience-building efforts through participatory assessments, stakeholder engagement, and community-led planning processes.

Committee represented diverse community groups and local stakeholders, creating an inclusive platform for discussing disaster and climate-related risks. Capacity-strengthening activities focused on disaster risk reduction, community resilience concepts, and participatory assessment tools.

Members actively participated in community mapping exercises, stakeholder consultations, and field observations aimed at identifying local vulnerabilities and capacities. Through these activities, participants developed a comprehensive understanding of local risk conditions and resilience priorities.

The committee also served as a mechanism for strengthening coordination between community members, volunteers, local authorities, and other stakeholders. This collaboration helped ensure that local knowledge and community perspectives were incorporated into resilience planning processes.

The experience contributed to stronger local networks, increased community awareness, and enhanced community participation in resilience-building initiatives.

Istanbul (Europe - Silivri)

The Community Resilience Committee established in Yeni Mahalle, Silivri, continued its activities through a series of participatory meetings aimed at strengthening local resilience and preparedness. During the third committee meeting, members completed several key eVCA tools, including the Hazard Identification Matrix, Problem and Solution Tree Analysis, Historical Profile, and Community Observation exercises.

Through these activities, committee identified priority hazards, explored underlying causes of local vulnerabilities, documented significant historical events affecting the community, and assessed existing capacities and resources. The field observation exercise enabled participants to examine risk hotspots, critical infrastructure, and community assets directly within the neighbourhood, complementing information gathered through discussions and secondary data reviews.

The process strengthened participants' understanding of local risks and resilience capacities while fostering collaboration among community members, volunteers, and local stakeholders. Findings generated through these exercises contributed to the identification of priority actions and will inform the development of the Community Action Plan for Yeni Mahalle.



izmir

In Izmir, Community Resilience Committee activities were supported by a comprehensive Baseline Study conducted through surveys, stakeholder consultations, and community engagement activities. The study aimed to better understand local vulnerabilities, capacities, preparedness levels, and community priorities while providing an evidence base for future resilience interventions.

Committee members actively contributed to data collection processes and supported engagement with local stakeholders, businesses, neighbourhood representatives, and community members. The findings helped identify key risks, existing capacities, and opportunities for strengthening resilience within the target community.

The Baseline Study forms the foundation of a broader community-based disaster risk reduction process and will guide future Community Action Plans and resilience initiatives. Building on these findings, school-based disaster risk reduction activities will also be implemented in selected schools, strengthening preparedness and resilience among students, teachers, families, and local communities.



Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (eVCA)

The Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (eVCA) is a participatory methodology developed by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to help communities better understand the risks they face, identify existing capacities, and develop locally owned solutions to strengthen resilience.

The eVCA process goes beyond identifying problems. It encourages communities to recognise their strengths, resources, and coping mechanisms while creating opportunities for collective action and long-term resilience building.

Through this process, communities are able to:

- Better understand local hazards and risks;
- Identify vulnerabilities and existing capacities;
- Strengthen collaboration among committee and stakeholders;
- Prioritise resilience and preparedness needs;
- Develop community-led action plans; and
- Promote sustainable and locally owned resilience initiatives.

Under the RISE Project, Community Resilience Committees play a central role in facilitating the implementation of key eVCA milestones. Through a structured process of engagement, assessment, action planning, and learning, committee work together with community members, volunteers, local authorities, and other stakeholders to analyse risks, identify capacities, and support community-led resilience actions.

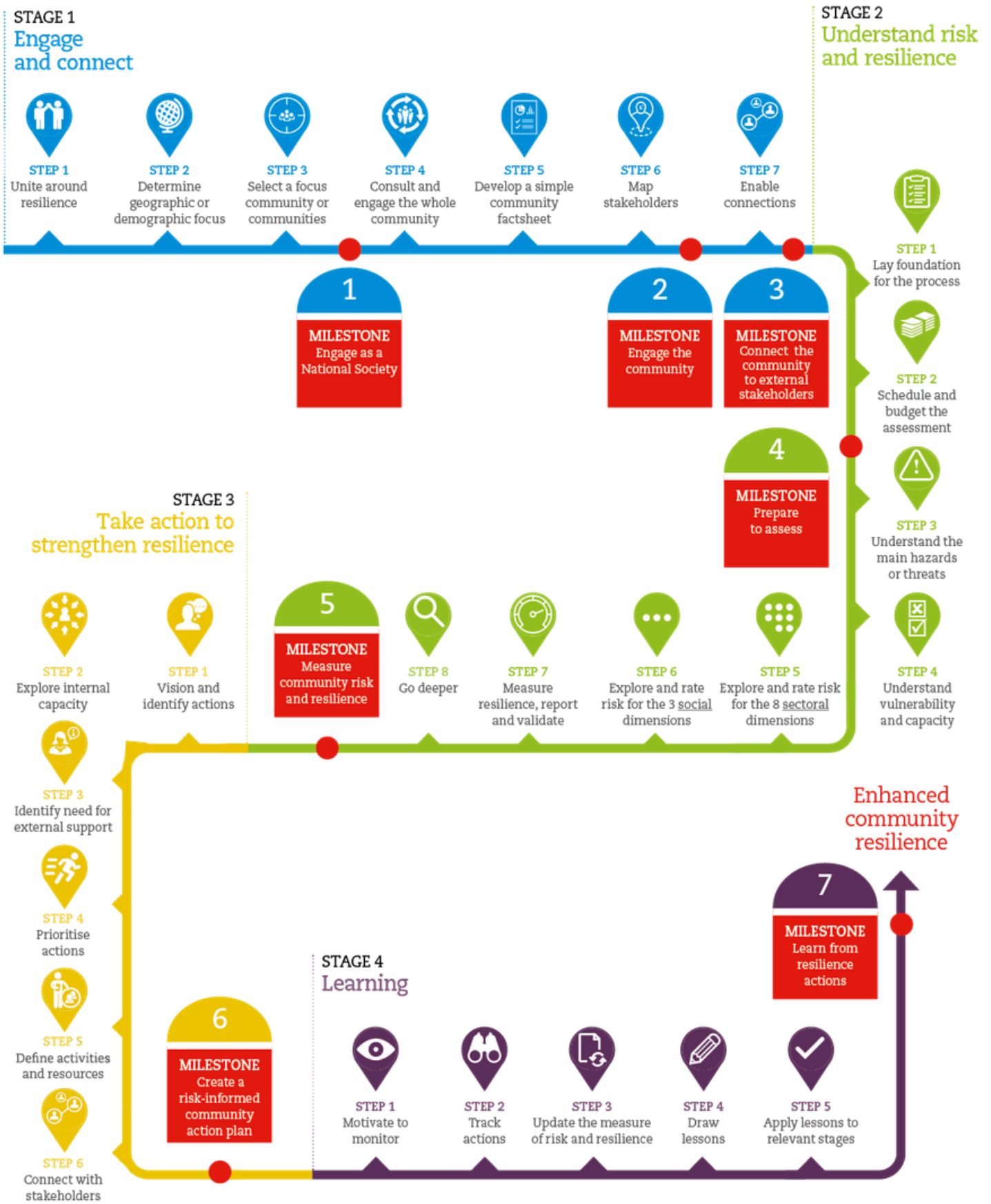
eVCA PROCESS

A participatory assessment to understand risks, capacities and priorities for action.



RESULT

Evidence-based understanding of community risks and capacities to inform action planning and strengthen resilience.



The Road Map to Community Resilience via EVCA (v2)

The committees provide an inclusive mechanism through which community members can actively participate in decision-making processes affecting their resilience and preparedness.

By bringing together diverse community representatives and stakeholders, the committees strengthen cooperation, support local problem-solving, and contribute to the sustainability of project outcomes beyond the implementation period.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE COMMITTEE JOURNEY

A community-led process to plan, act and strengthen local resilience.



RESULT

Community-led decisions and actions that reduce risks, strengthen preparedness and build long-term resilience.



COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS

Community Resilience Committees contribute to:



Community Action Planning

Following the completion of eVCA processes, community members, volunteers, local stakeholders, and committee representatives worked together to analyse identified risks, prioritise needs, and discuss practical actions that could strengthen resilience and preparedness.

The Community Resilience Committees supported the translation of eVCA findings into community resilience action plans, helping communities identify locally relevant solutions and strengthen preparedness efforts through participatory planning processes.

These action plans provide a foundation for future awareness-raising activities, preparedness initiatives, small-scale mitigation measures, and community-led resilience actions supported under the RISE Project.

The committees will continue to support the implementation, monitoring, and review of these actions, ensuring that resilience-building efforts remain community-driven and responsive to local needs.



BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE THROUGH RISE



Anticipatory Action

Advancing the Turkish Red Crescent's Anticipatory Action Journey

Anticipatory Action (AA) is an emerging approach that enables humanitarian actors to act before a forecasted hazard turns into a disaster. By combining risk analysis, forecasting information, predefined triggers, and early actions, Anticipatory Action aims to reduce the humanitarian impacts of disasters and climate-related hazards before they occur.

Over the past decade, Anticipatory Action has gained increasing attention across the humanitarian sector and is being implemented by a growing number of Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies worldwide. Through the support of the German Red Cross (GRC), the Anticipation Hub, and global Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners, significant progress has been made in advancing forecast-based and anticipatory approaches at both national and international levels.

As part of this global movement, the RISE Project has provided an important opportunity to initiate and strengthen the Turkish Red Crescent's Anticipatory Action journey.





Key Outcomes

The training strengthened participants' understanding of how anticipatory approaches can complement traditional disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction efforts.

It also created a valuable platform for dialogue and collaboration among institutions involved in forecasting, preparedness, risk reduction, and disaster management, contributing to a shared understanding of Anticipatory Action opportunities within the Turkish context.

Importantly, the training marked one of the first structured steps towards exploring how Anticipatory Action can be integrated into Turkish Red Crescent systems, capacities, and future programming.

The training also contributed to strengthening institutional dialogue on the potential future integration of Anticipatory Action within Turkish Red Crescent systems and programmes.



Looking Ahead: Exploring Anticipatory Action Opportunities

Building on the momentum created through the RISE Project, future efforts will focus on exploring the feasibility and potential application of Anticipatory Action approaches within the Turkish Red Crescent.

This work will include:

- Assessing priority hazards and risk profiles;
- Reviewing forecasting capacities and early warning systems;
- Examining institutional readiness and operational capacities;
- Strengthening collaboration with national stakeholders; and
- Exploring opportunities for future Anticipatory Action frameworks and pilot initiatives.

Through these efforts, the Turkish Red Crescent aims to contribute to the growing global Anticipatory Action community and further strengthen its capacity to act early, reduce risks, and protect vulnerable communities before disasters occur.

Marmara Earthquake Preparedness

The RISE Project supports the Turkish Red Crescent's preparedness efforts for a potential Marmara earthquake through institutional capacity development, operational planning, simulation exercises, branch strengthening, and community preparedness activities.

Strengthening Readiness for a Marmara Earthquake Scenario

Given the significant earthquake risk facing the Marmara Region and the potential impact of a large-scale earthquake on Türkiye's most populated metropolitan area, the RISE Project initiated a dedicated preparedness component to strengthen the institutional readiness of the Turkish Red Crescent and enhance local response capacities in İstanbul.

The initiative focuses on improving preparedness systems, operational planning, coordination mechanisms, branch capacities, and public awareness through a combination of training programmes, contingency planning processes, simulation exercises, equipment support, and community preparedness activities.

Capacity Building

Coordination meetings were conducted with the Disaster and Community Services Directorate and the Training Unit to identify learning priorities, target groups, implementation modalities, and capacity development pathways for headquarters staff, branch personnel, volunteers, Disaster Management Centers (AHM), and Inter-City Disaster Management Teams (ŞAT).

Planned activities include:

- Training needs assessments for headquarters and branch staff, volunteers, and disaster management teams;
- Development of training pathways, training materials, and learning modules;
- Delivery of preparedness and response trainings for staff and volunteers;
- Capacity-building activities for selected branches and disaster management structures; and
- Peer-to-peer learning and exchange with National Societies experienced in earthquake preparedness and response.

Contingency Planning and Operational Readiness

A key component of the initiative is the review and enhancement of the Turkish Red Crescent's contingency and response planning framework for a potential Marmara earthquake scenario.

The process includes:

- Reviewing existing preparedness and response arrangements;
- Clarifying roles and responsibilities at headquarters, regional, and branch levels;
- Strengthening coordination and communication mechanisms;
- Identifying operational gaps and capacity requirements; and
- Disseminating updated preparedness arrangements through orientation and planning sessions.

These efforts contribute to strengthening institutional readiness and ensuring a coordinated response during large-scale emergencies.

Simulation Exercises

To test preparedness arrangements and operational readiness, simulation exercises are planned as part of the Marmara Earthquake Preparedness component.

Preparatory work includes:

- Development of simulation exercise scenarios and guidance documents;
- Coordination with internal and external stakeholders;
- Observer and evaluation mechanisms;
- Logistics and communication arrangements; and
- Integration of lessons learned into future preparedness efforts.

The programme foresees both tabletop and large-scale simulation exercises to validate response procedures and identify opportunities for improvement.

Branch Capacity Strengthening

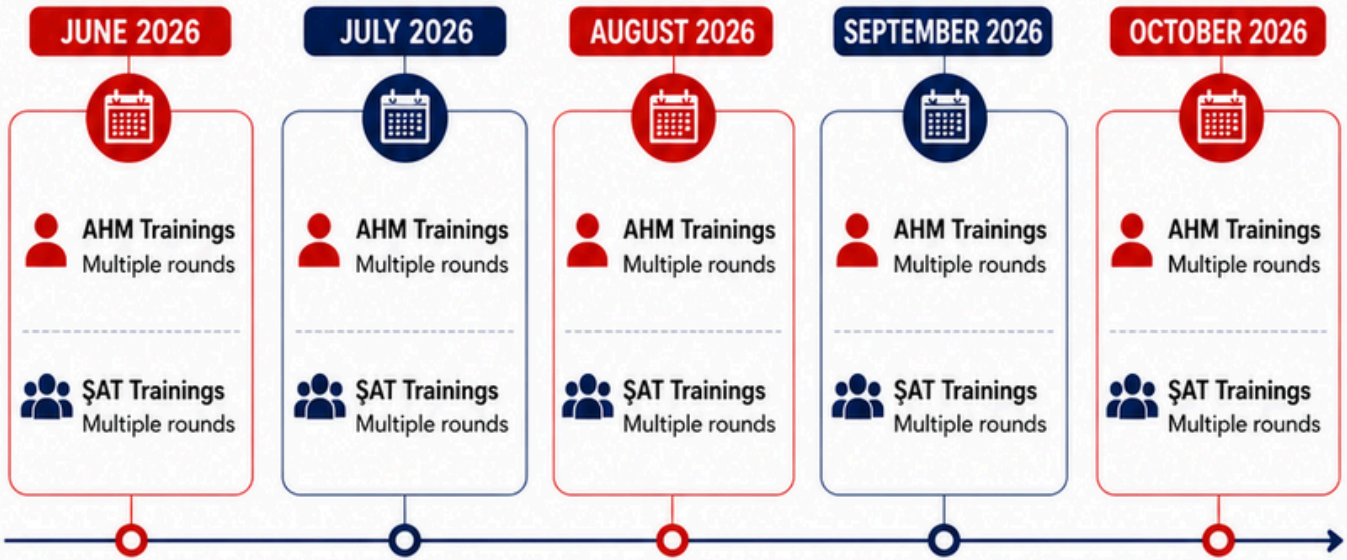
Field assessments and consultations were conducted with the Turkish Red Crescent branches in Sancaktepe and Silivri to identify priority areas for capacity strengthening and preparedness support. These branches play strategic roles within İstanbul's earthquake preparedness and response architecture and maintain close cooperation with local authorities, AFAD structures, volunteers, and community stakeholders.

In Sancaktepe, discussions focused on branch preparedness capacities, emergency nutrition services, disaster response team development, search and rescue capabilities, and operational support requirements. Existing preparedness arrangements include branch disaster response teams, capacity mapping systems, designated response responsibilities, and planned preparedness drills.

In Silivri, assessments highlighted the branch's strategic role within local emergency coordination mechanisms, cooperation with municipal and national disaster management actors, volunteer mobilisation capacities, and plans to further strengthen search and rescue preparedness. The branch also contributes to disaster awareness activities and maintains strong relationships with schools, universities, and local stakeholders.

Based on the findings, future support will focus on strengthening branch capacities through targeted equipment, materials, training, planning support, and preparedness initiatives aligned with earthquake response requirements.

AHM & ŞAT TRAINING PROGRAMME UNDER RISE



<p>AHM TRAININGS Assessment and Humanitarian Mechanism trainings</p>	<p>ŞAT TRAININGS Search and Rescue Teams trainings</p>	<p>3 DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRES Istanbul (Europe), Istanbul (Anatolia) and Düzce</p>	<p>PERIOD June - October 2026</p>	<p>FOCUS Strengthening coordination, preparedness and response capacity</p>
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<p>27 Planned Training Activities</p>	<p>3 Disaster Management Centres</p>	<p>2 Training Streams (AHM & ŞAT)</p>	<p>5 Months of Programme</p>
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Public Awareness and Preparedness

Complementing institutional preparedness efforts, the project supports large-scale awareness-raising initiatives aimed at increasing public knowledge and preparedness for earthquakes and other hazards.

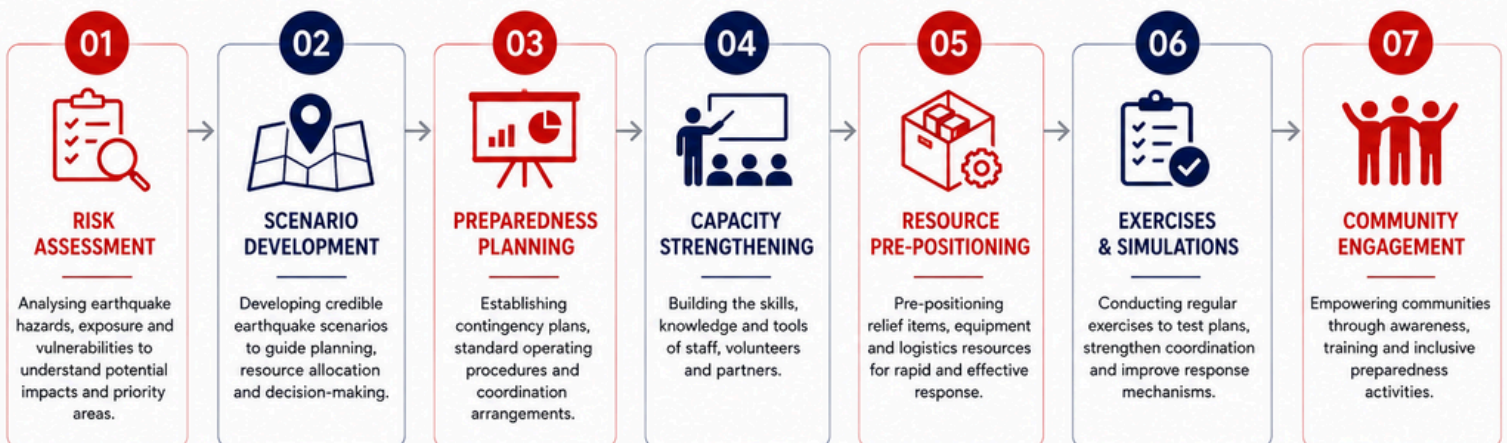
- As part of this effort, a comprehensive preparedness package is being developed, including:
 - Emergency Preparedness Guidebook;
 - Emergency Information Cards;
 - Hazard-specific brochures covering earthquakes, floods, landslides, wildfires, tsunamis, volcanic activities, and other relevant hazards; and
 - Awareness-raising materials for community outreach activities.

In line with the project's awareness objectives, approximately 100,000 preparedness materials are planned for production and dissemination across İstanbul, contributing to increased risk awareness and preparedness among communities.

ISTANBUL EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS INITIATIVE

Building a Safer, More Resilient İstanbul

The İstanbul Earthquake Preparedness Initiative (IST EQ PREP) strengthens the capacity of the Turkish Red Crescent to prepare for and respond to a potential earthquake in İstanbul. The initiative follows a structured approach to reduce risk, strengthen readiness and build community resilience.



OUR GOAL

A prepared and resilient İstanbul where lives are protected, impacts are minimized and communities recover stronger.



COLLABORATION
Working together for greater impact.



IMPARTIALITY
Providing assistance based on need alone.



ACCOUNTABILITY
Being responsible and transparent in our actions.



INCLUSIVENESS
Ensuring no one is left behind.

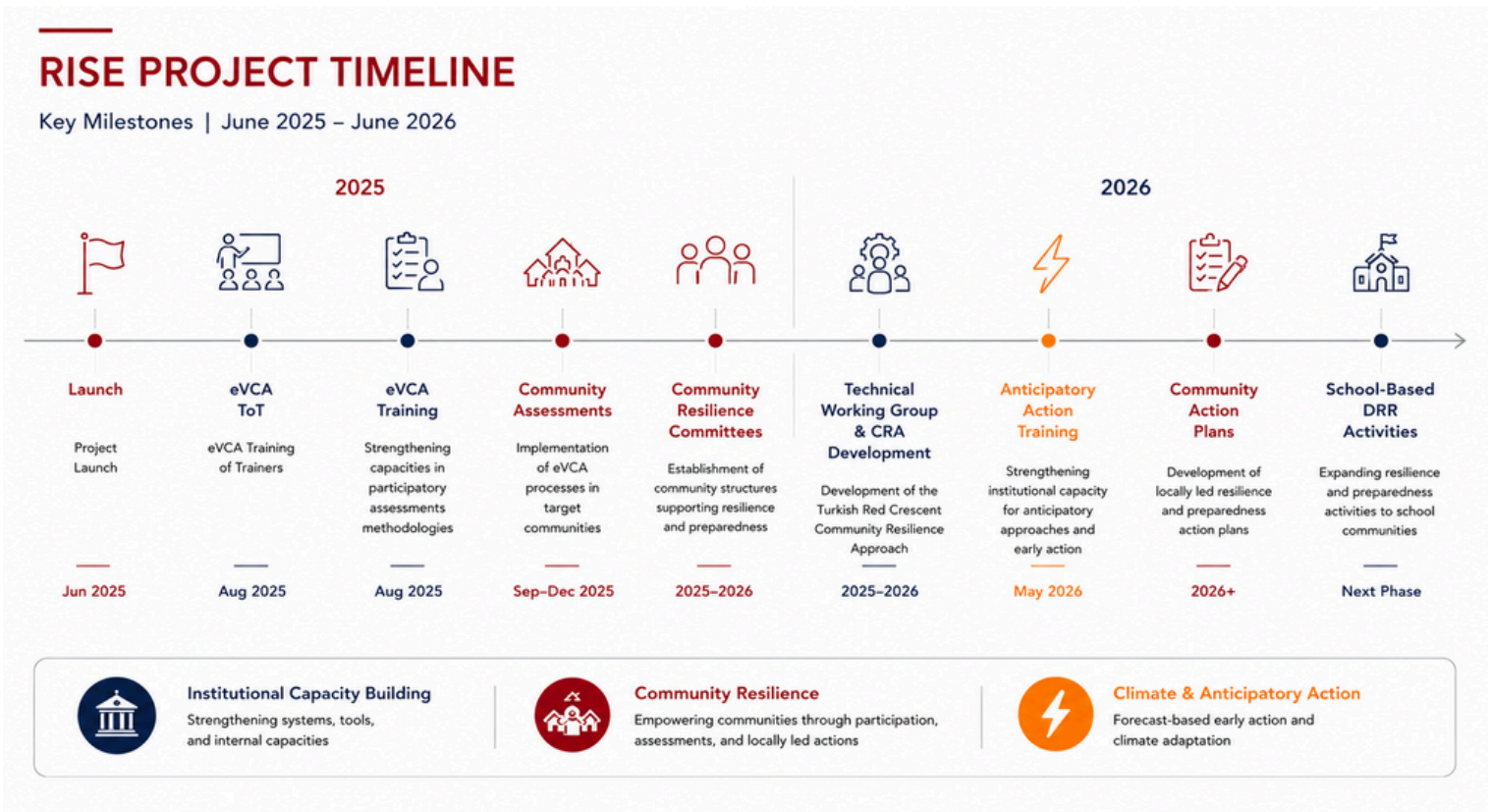


PREPAREDNESS
Acting today for a safer tomorrow.

Looking Ahead

Future efforts will focus on strengthening institutional preparedness systems, supporting branch-level readiness, enhancing response planning and coordination mechanisms, conducting simulation exercises, and expanding public awareness activities.

Through these efforts, the RISE Project contributes to strengthening the Turkish Red Crescent's capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a potential Marmara earthquake while promoting a culture of preparedness and resilience among communities.



Community Engagement and Local Action

Community-Based Resilience Activities

During the reporting period, community engagement activities focused on strengthening local participation, promoting risk awareness, and supporting community-led resilience processes through the implementation of eVCA activities and Community Resilience Committees.

The project encouraged collaboration between community members, volunteers, local stakeholders, and institutions to better understand risks and identify locally relevant resilience actions.

Community Committees in Action

Community Resilience Committees played an important role in facilitating discussions, supporting assessments, identifying priorities, and contributing to local action planning processes.

Through participatory approaches, committees helped strengthen local ownership and promote community-driven resilience initiatives.

Heat Action Day

As part of Heat Action Day, awareness-raising activities were implemented together with the Hacı Bayram Community Committee established through the eVCA process in Ankara.

Building on local heat mapping exercises conducted with committee, activities focused on increasing awareness of indoor heat risks and practical adaptation measures.

Committee received awareness materials, educational resources, seeds, hydroponic growing kits, and practical information on heat preparedness.

The activity demonstrated how community-led processes can contribute to addressing emerging climate-related risks and highlighted the importance of local participation in resilience-building efforts.

Heat Action Day Visibility Activities

Communication and visibility activities supported the dissemination of Heat Action Day messages through awareness materials, community engagement products, and practical information shared with community members. These efforts helped increase public understanding of heat-related risks and promoted simple adaptation measures at household level.





INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES



COMMUNITY CAPACITIES

OUTPUT 1



TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP



Approach Development



Approach Update

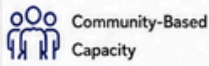


Approach Review

OUTPUT 2



CAPACITY BUILDING



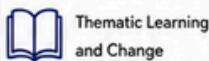
Community-Based Capacity



School-Based Capacity



Volunteer Capacity

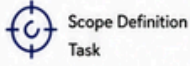


Thematic Learning and Change

OUTPUT 3



BASELINE REVIEW



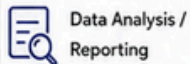
Scope Definition Task



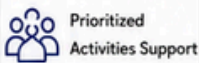
Field / Survey Arrangements



Data Collection



Data Analysis / Reporting



Prioritized Activities Support

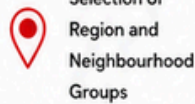


ISTANBUL EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS

OUTPUT 4



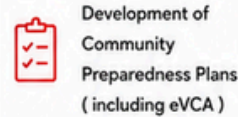
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Selection of Region and Neighbourhood Groups



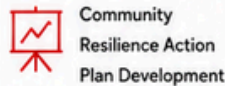
Community-School Committees



Development of Community Preparedness Plans (including eVCA)



Community Awareness Activities

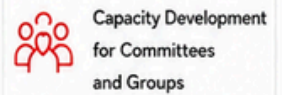


Community Resilience Action Plan Development

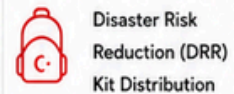
OUTPUT 5



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR COMMITTEES & STUDENTS



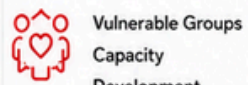
Capacity Development for Committees and Groups



Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Kit Distribution



Small-Scale Projects



Vulnerable Groups Capacity Development



5 OUTPUTS
STRUCTURED
OUTPUT AREAS



3 OUTPUTS
INSTITUTIONAL
CAPACITY FOCUS



2 OUTPUTS
COMMUNITY
CAPACITY FOCUS



1 FOCUS AREA
ISTANBUL EARTHQUAKE
PREPAREDNESS



1 COMMON GOAL
BUILDING RESILIENT
COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

Sustainability and Ownership

Sustainability has been integrated into the project design through institutional capacity development, the establishment of long-term coordination mechanisms, and community-led resilience structures.

The Community Resilience Technical Working Group and the Turkish Red Crescent Community Resilience Approach (TRCS-CRA) provide foundations for continued institutional learning and future resilience programming.

At community level, Community Resilience Committees create a sustainable mechanism for participation, preparedness planning, awareness-raising, and locally led action beyond the project implementation period.

Key Reflections

- Community ownership remains critical for sustainable resilience outcomes.
- Participatory assessments improve the relevance and effectiveness of interventions.
- Continuous mentoring and technical support remain important following trainings.
- Multi-stakeholder coordination strengthens risk-informed decision-making.
- Anticipatory approaches create opportunities to reduce disaster impacts before crises occur.

School-Based Disaster Risk Reduction

The next phase of the RISE Project will focus on strengthening disaster risk reduction awareness and preparedness among children through school-based activities implemented across the six target provinces. These activities will include awareness-raising sessions, preparedness education, educational materials, and engagement with students, teachers, and parents to promote a culture of safety and resilience both at school and within households.

A key component of this effort will be the distribution of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Kits, which will support interactive learning and encourage children to explore disaster preparedness through practical exercises and family engagement activities.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Kits for Children

To support school-based disaster risk reduction activities, approximately 13,000 Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Kits will be distributed through 14 schools and 7 Disaster Response Centers across the six target provinces.

The kits have been designed to strengthen disaster awareness, preparedness knowledge, and risk reduction behaviours among children while encouraging preparedness discussions within families and schools. Through educational materials, practical preparedness items, and interactive activities, the kits aim to help children better understand local risks and develop safer behaviours before emergencies occur.

Educational Objectives

The DRR Kits support children to:

- Recognise hazards and risks in their surroundings;
- Develop basic preparedness and safety skills;
- Prepare family emergency plans;
- Explore safe and unsafe areas in homes, schools, and neighbourhoods;
- Strengthen disaster awareness through interactive learning activities;
- Promote preparedness discussions between children, families, and schools; and
- Encourage a culture of safety and resilience at community level.

SCHOOL-BASED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION & DRR KITS

Strengthening disaster awareness and preparedness among children through school-based learning, educational activities, and family engagement.

SCHOOL-BASED DRR

Promoting disaster awareness and resilience through school-based activities and community engagement.



14 SCHOOLS

Implementation across 14 schools.



STUDENTS

Reaching children with age-appropriate learning and activities.



TEACHERS

Empowering teachers with knowledge and resources.



PARENTS

Engaging families in preparedness and risk reduction.



PREPAREDNESS EDUCATION

Building knowledge and preparedness skills.



AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

Raising awareness on risks and safe behaviours.



INTERACTIVE LEARNING

Learning through games, activities and practical exercises.



RISK REDUCTION AWARENESS

Encouraging safer choices in daily life.



Promoting disaster preparedness and safer behaviours through school and community engagement.

DRR KITS FOR CHILDREN



13,000 DRR KITS

to be distributed in 2026



6

PROVINCES



7

INTERVENTION CENTRES



14

SCHOOLS

KIT CONTENTS



Disaster and Emergency Whistle



Flashlight



Batteries



Notebook and Pen



Risk Assessment Checklist



Family Emergency Plan



Hazard Hunt Activity



Word Search Activity



My Room Safety Map



My School Safety Map



My Neighbourhood Safety Map



Disaster and Emergency Guide



AWARENESS

Building knowledge and understanding



PREPAREDNESS

Developing skills and readiness



ENGAGEMENT

Involving schools, families and communities



ACTION

Applying knowledge in daily life



RESILIENCE

Building a safer and resilient future

Community Resilience

- Continued strengthening and expansion of Community Resilience Committees
- Development and implementation of Community Action Plans
- Community awareness-raising and preparedness activities
- Small-scale mitigation and risk reduction initiatives identified by communities
- Strengthening collaboration between communities, local authorities, schools, and other stakeholders

School-Based Disaster Risk Reduction

School-based disaster risk reduction activities will be expanded across the six target provinces through awareness sessions, preparedness education, and community engagement activities involving students, teachers, and families.

DRR Kit Distribution

Approximately 13,000 Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Kits will be distributed through 7 Disaster Centres and 14 schools.

The kits are designed to strengthen disaster awareness among children and their families through:

- Disaster preparedness learning materials
- Family preparedness activities
- School-based resilience exercises
- Interactive educational games and activities
- Risk awareness and safety information

Community Resilience Approach (TRCS-CRA)

- Refinement and validation of the Turkish Red Crescent Community Resilience Approach
- Continued work of the Community Resilience Technical Working Group
- Institutionalisation of community resilience methodologies and tools

Anticipatory Action

Future efforts will focus on:

- Hazard prioritisation
- Forecast and trigger analysis
- Institutional readiness assessments
- Stakeholder consultations and validation workshops
- Strengthening partnerships with technical agencies
- Exploring opportunities for future Anticipatory Action pilots

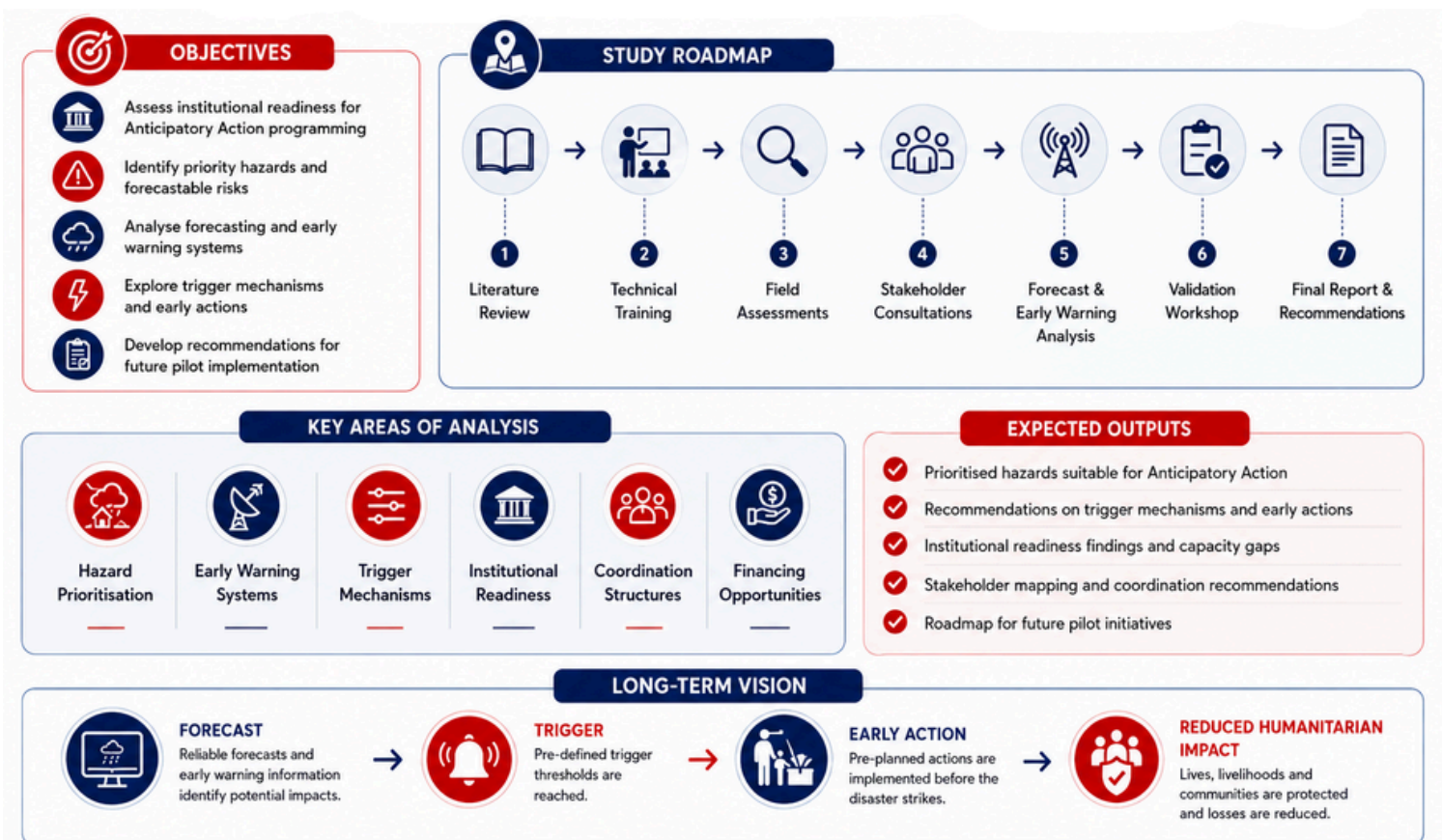
Marmara Earthquake Preparedness

- Contingency and response planning
- Capacity strengthening for branches and volunteers
- Simulation exercises
- Peer-to-peer learning and exchange
- Earthquake preparedness awareness activities

Anticipatory Action Feasibility Study

As part of the RISE Project, a feasibility study is being conducted to assess the Turkish Red Crescent's readiness and potential for implementing Anticipatory Action (AA) approaches in Türkiye.

The study aims to evaluate institutional capacities, identify priority hazards and potential implementation areas, and develop recommendations for future pilot Anticipatory Action initiatives.



By strengthening evidence-based decision-making and preparedness planning, the feasibility study will contribute to the development of a future Anticipatory Action framework within the Turkish Red Crescent.

Looking Forward - June 2026 - December 2027

Building on the achievements of the first implementation period, the RISE Project will continue strengthening institutional and community resilience through locally led action, preparedness, disaster risk reduction, and anticipatory approaches.

2026 (Jul-Dec)



COMMUNITY ACTION PLANS

Implementation planning and prioritisation of locally identified resilience actions.

Jul-Dec 2026



SCHOOL-BASED DRR ACTIVITIES

Awareness raising, preparedness education and engagement with students, teachers and families.

2026-2027



DRR KIT DISTRIBUTION

Distribution of 13,000 educational DRR Kits through 7 Intervention Centres and 14 schools across 6 provinces.

2026



TRCS-CRA REFINEMENT

Review workshops, technical consultations and validation of the Turkish Red Crescent Community Resilience Approach.

2026



MARMARA EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS

Capacity building, planning, coordination and preparedness activities for a potential Marmara earthquake.

2026



ANTICIPATORY ACTION FEASIBILITY

Hazard prioritisation, trigger analysis and stakeholder consultations.

2026

2027



TRCS-CRA FINALISATION

Completion and institutionalisation of the Community Resilience Approach.

2027



ANTICIPATORY ACTION READINESS

Forecast analysis, institutional readiness assessments and strengthened partnerships.

2027



MARMARA EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS

Contingency planning, branch capacity strengthening and preparedness activities.

2027



SIMULATION EXERCISES

Table-top and full-scale simulation exercises to test preparedness and response capacities.

2027



COMMUNITY-LED RESILIENCE ACTIONS

Implementation of Community Action Plans and locally led resilience initiatives.

2027



SMALL SCALE PROJECTS / DRR MEASURES

Implementation of small scale projects and DRR measures in communities.

2027



RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Stronger preparedness systems, increased local ownership and enhanced resilience capacities.

Beyond 2027



INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

- Community Resilience Approach
- Capacity Development
- Preparedness



COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

- Committees
- Action Plans
- School-Based DRR
- Small Scale Projects / DRR Measures



ANTICIPATORY ACTION & PREPAREDNESS

- Forecast-Based Action
- Readiness
- Simulation Exercises



RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

- Local Ownership
- Risk Reduction
- Sustainable Impact



RISE INCEPTION WORKSHOP – ANKARA
(18 June 2025)



ISTANBUL 6.2 EARTHQUAKE LESSONS LEARNED WORKSHOP – ISTANBUL



2025 RESILIENCE CONGRESS PARTICIPATION – ELAZIĞ
(13-17 October 2025)



RISE REVIEW / EVALUATION WORKSHOP



**TÜRK
KIZILAY**

