

THE ROLE OF NGO'S IN THE CONTEXT OF POST DISASTER HOUSING IN TURKEY

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OUTLINE

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- POST DISASTER HOUSING PROBLEM IN TURKEY
- THE ROLE OF THE NGO'S IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN TURKEY
- THE EVALUATION OF THE NGO'S (SWOT ANALYSIS)
- CONCLUSIONS

INTRODUCTION

- Disasters are events which occur within some specified periods of time and spaces, and threat a society or a relatively self-sufficient part of a society with major unwanted consequences.
- Worldwide losses from disasters are increasing. For natural disasters worldwide, the annual economic losses averaged
 - \$4, 9 billion in the 1960's,
 - \$15, 1 billion in the 1980's
 - \$75,9 billion annually in the 1990's

INTRODUCTION

- The major issue is usually defined as re-building the physical environment by emphasizing housing in the recovery programs.
- Shelter problem after the disasters are generally followed by four overlapping phases;
 - Spontaneous Shelter (first 72 hours)
 - Emergency Shelter (first 60 days)
 - Interim Housing (first year and beyond)
 - Permanent Housing

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INTRODUCTION

- This research is trying to define the role of the NGO's in Turkey in post disaster housing activities and evaluates the process according to following questions;
 - What is the role of the NGO's in the disaster management system in Turkey?
 - What is the actual position of post disaster housing from the point view of NGO's in Turkey?
 - What are the strong and vulnerable parts of the NGO's in Turkey?
 - How can they achieve more accelerated and sustainable housing reconstruction?

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INTRODUCTION

- This study also analyzes the role of the NGO's established after the earthquake in order to defend the rights of the tenants, disabled peoples and low income families tenure in Turkey. The SWOT analysis technique used to evaluate the risks and opportunities for the NGO'S involved in acquiring the housing rights of victims groups; disabled peoples, low income families and tenants.
- The local associations' (Earthquake victims association, Blue Crescent association, Accessible Life association, Foundation for Supporting the Women's Work association) roles are evaluated according to their relation with central and local government. Interviews were made with the NGO's representatives. They were evaluated in the light of their actual position for housing conditions.

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TURKEY-DUZCE AS CASE STUDY

On 12 November 1999 the devastating earthquake with 7.2 magnitudes occurred in Duzce province. Approximately 43,000 buildings were damaged. Generally 84% of damages occurred to the houses and 16% to the work places. Also 980 people died and 38,939 were injured.



Figure North Anatolian Fault Line and Impact of the Earthquake to Duzce (DMC, 2000).

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POST DISASTER HOUSING PROBLEM IN TURKEY

- The Turkish government, along with local and international agencies and NGOs, responded immediately to the emergency with the provision of temporary shelters, food, health care, counselling and other social services. More than 130 tent cities, with over 100,000 tents were initially set up to provide survivors with emergency shelter and thousands of temporary prefabricated homes were constructed within one year.
- The government's strategy of solving the housing deficiency and housing need emerged after the earthquakes was to conduct a few mass housing projects and to provide housing credits with low interest rates. But these were only for those who were the owners of damaged/badly damaged/collapsed houses and/or offices. These people as property owners were called *"Hak Sahibi"* (Holder of a Right those who have the right of making claims for the state funds, credits).
- However, vulnerable segments of the population who were affected by the quakes but living in rented houses continued to fall through the social welfare.

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DISASTER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN TURKEY

The body current law in Turkey's emergency management situation is generally focused on post disaster efforts. However different ministries and institutions are responsible for different types of disasters.

NATIONAL LEVEL	
Prime Minister, Related Ministers, Red Crescent President, representative of military staff	To form crisis centre in post disaster phase and make decisions by a large majority
PROVINCE LEVEL	
Governor, Related province directors, Mayor, Representative of Red Crescent, province military staff	Meet by the invitation of governor, work according to 24 hour principle and convey the post disaster needs to the central government (The Ministry of The Public Works and Settlement)
CITIZEN LEVEL	
	Have responsibilities which were arranged by legal regulations. Very limited and indirect participation to post disaster processes

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THE SELECTED NGO'S

NGO	Focus Group	Facilities	Housing	Projects	Existing Position
DEPDER (Earthquake victim's association) 1999	Tenant Disaster victims who lives in; -slums -cheap houses -gecekondu	Secure and safe shelters and Housing rights for the tenants	Self aided housing	1 housing cooperative established	Negotiation for land allocation and low credit
KEDV (Foundation for Supporting the Women's Work) 1986	Low income women	Improve quality of life	-Governance -Housing & reconstruction -Economic initiatives and sustainability -Child care	4 housing cooperative established Participatory planning and housing	Negotiation for land allocation and low credit
UYD (Accessible Life Association) 2000	Small or landless peasants -low income disabled people -children, women	Community based rehabilitation	Mass housing projects for disabled people	25 housing unit and social centre	Acquired land and find finance for the housing project
IBC (International Blue Crescent) 1999	Improve the life's of most disadvantaged section	Civil Society and Development Relief and rehabilitation Housing reconstruction rural development Health Education and training	Housing and reconstruction	community centre beyciler assisted self help project 168 housing unit 75 tenants 71 temporary house resident 22 tent resident	Finished in 20 months

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THE EVALUATION OF THE NGO'S

Four NGO's are evaluated and analysed according to SWOT analysis method that covers strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threatens.

STRENGTHS

- Although most of the NGO's are newly established all (more or less) have improvements as acquiring land for housing, construction of the houses, etc. Some have finished the construction process and some could only acquire land from the central government.

- The NGO's create "public awareness" in the community about the vulnerable parts such as disabled peoples, low income families, etc. Sometimes this awareness forms public opinion (e.g. DEPDER, Earthquake victim's association, conduct 60.000 sign for support to their rights).

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THE EVALUATION OF THE NGO'S

WEAKNESSES

- The actual problems are not well defined. The NGOs do not have a criticising view for their efforts. People are only aware of their personal needs and seeking for "individual solutions".

- The potentials of women is decreased because of the man focused family structure.

- The land allocation delayed and by politic approach Some new cooperatives established for housing needs of the peoples who are not disaster victim can achieve land allocation in one year whereas the disaster victims' NGO can achieve in 4 year period. The NGO's are not strong enough to defense and show their rights to mass media.

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THE EVALUATION OF THE NGO'S

WEAKNESSES

- There is a general fincemenent problem for the housing projects. The credit possibility are very restricted (e.g. UYD (Accessible Life Association) find financial support from an international NGO)

- NGO's are facing the debate about the relationship with the politics. So the NGO's must be careful in defending their rights as non governmental and non political organisation. They could force the politics but not be the part of a political view. DEPDER (Earthquake victim's association) is too much criticised by the public as it is tend to be perceived as a political figure by the community.

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THE EVALUATION OF THE NGO'S

OPPORTUNITIES

- The efforts of community should be canalized to form and improve civil community spirit that covers voluntary participation.
- Local government could be open to new projects and encouraged to assist the land demand. So the collobarative works can be organised by the contribution of local government. Because the reconstructed housing sites will also effect the city plan and has long term consequences.

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THE EVALUATION OF THE NGO'S

OPPORTUNITIES

- The participation methods could be defined in national legal system in order to improve the community participation in different levels and for different genders, groups such as women, disabled and elderly peoples in an equal way due to their physical and psychological position.
- The experience of NGO's could be used for better design of housing provision systems.

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THE EVALUATION OF THE NGO'S

THREATENS

- During the reconstruction process some of the NGO do not have a "solution productive approachs" and the members oriented to the NGO leader's to overcome all situations.
- The legal constraints are very important in and give no chance for acceleration of neither community nor citizen participation.
- After the rehabilitation period the central government is not eager to give part in reconstruction process to the NGO's as the interest of the national mass media decreases.

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THE EVALUATION OF THE NGO'S

THREATENS

•The post disaster housing need are evaluated as normal housing problem. But the emergency of the situation and psychology of the affected people must be taken into consideration and a selection chance for the disaster affected people could be given for also supporting the psycho-social reconstruction of the region.

•The sustainability of the NGO's are in risc. Some of the NGO find solution to their problems by individual relations and some of the NGO's member number decreased too much which can cause not to sustain their activities.

•Long time state aids (nearly 2 year) prevent people to be organised and struggling for their rights in reconstruction phase.

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CONCLUSIONS

•" Opportunity Window" is very important in solving legal constraints and planning issues in post disaster reconstruction. The first months beyond to first year of the disaster can be used to boost the reconstruction activities by making pressure on politicians and/or local governments.

•Although there are very limited examples such as Beyciler Houses in Turkey, the case clearly shows that without legislations it is difficult to design and implement Ngo
•and community based solutions for post disaster housing.

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CONCLUSIONS

•Civil initiatives achieved working together and constitute new organizations to help affected people in disaster region. Still, the existing level of work is inadequate in the name of civil initiatives especially in collaboration with governmental organizations. The role of the Local government (Municipality) can be increased to a pivotal role for accelerating colloborative housing projects with the NGO's.

•The post disaster housing reconstruction need an overall (whole) design and planning approach which covers all vulnerable parts of the disaster affected community. But all the NGO's in the case had different housing projects. They do not have an upper level plan to adjust. So this situation affects long term social and physical reconstruction.

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DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The role of the NGO's can be designated in order to accelerate the physical and social reconstruction of the affected region. The short term and long term targets must be defined for adjust the sources.

NGO'S MISSION	POST DISASTER ACTIVITIES		
Short Term Need	Rehabilitation: Distribution of urgent needs (tents, foods, etc.)	Slow down function and turned back to their routine	Short time is not sustainable for the community after the immediate and rehabilitation phase (1 year or beyond)
Long Term Need	Reconstruction and rebuilding: physical reconstruction (house and social centres, etc...)	Keep their presence active in reconstruction activities	Struggle for sustainable communities for future disasters

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CONCLUSIONS

- Disaster management system of a country is very important for the NGO's because it is not only restricted the institutions capacity but also prevent them for rapid actions.
- The research clearly shows long term planning is crucial for acquiring reliable solutions to post disaster housing. The community is ready for new challenges in the aftermath (first to 6 month) of the disaster. By the time passes (one year or beyond) the concern of the community and media decrease and it becomes too hard to find solutions and get results.

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THANK YOU...

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