

C.20 Turkey, Lice - 1975 - Earthquake

Case study: Town relocation

Case study credit:
UNDRO 1982

Disaster:

Earthquake

Location:

Lice, Turkey-September
1975

Population Pre-disaster:

50,000 (8,100 in Lice town)

number of people Homeless:

5,000

Number of houses damaged or destroyed

16,160

Occupancy:

90% of tents.

10% of 463 Polyurethane
igloos were occupied

Value of damage:

Estimated between 17
million USD and 34 million
USD.

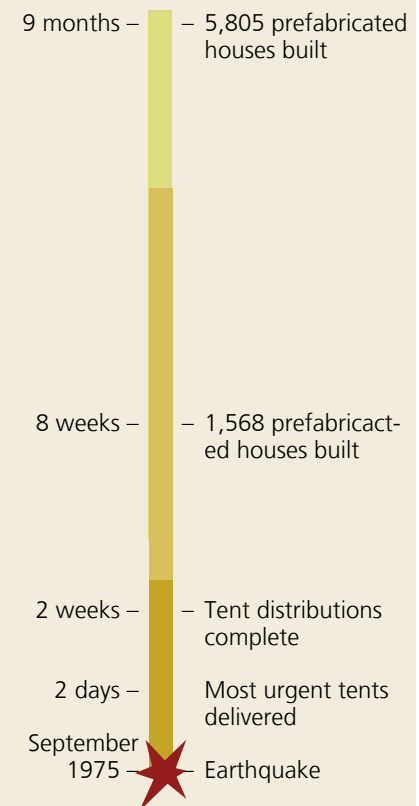
Value of assistance:

\$34 million (internal sources)

\$15.7 million (external
sources).



Project timeline



summary

The emergency shelter policy was to provide over 3600 tents through the Turkish Red Crescent, and to accelerate reconstruction. Voluntary Agencies followed their own policies, e.g. the Oxfam built 463 igloos.

The Ministry of Reconstruction and Resettlement moved the town of Lice 2 km to the south due to the risk of rockfalls at the old site.

The housing policy was to provide prefabricated homes, not to rebuild in local building tradition. The town of Lice was planned for an eventual population of 20,000, which was twice the pre-earthquake total.

Some of the housing assistance from external sources, notably Libya, incorporated employment provision, animal shelters, and other benefits

Strengths and weaknesses

✓ Tents effectively met short-term needs. A particular quality of Red Crescent policy was to ask surviving families to make new tents to replenish the stockpile while using their own tents.

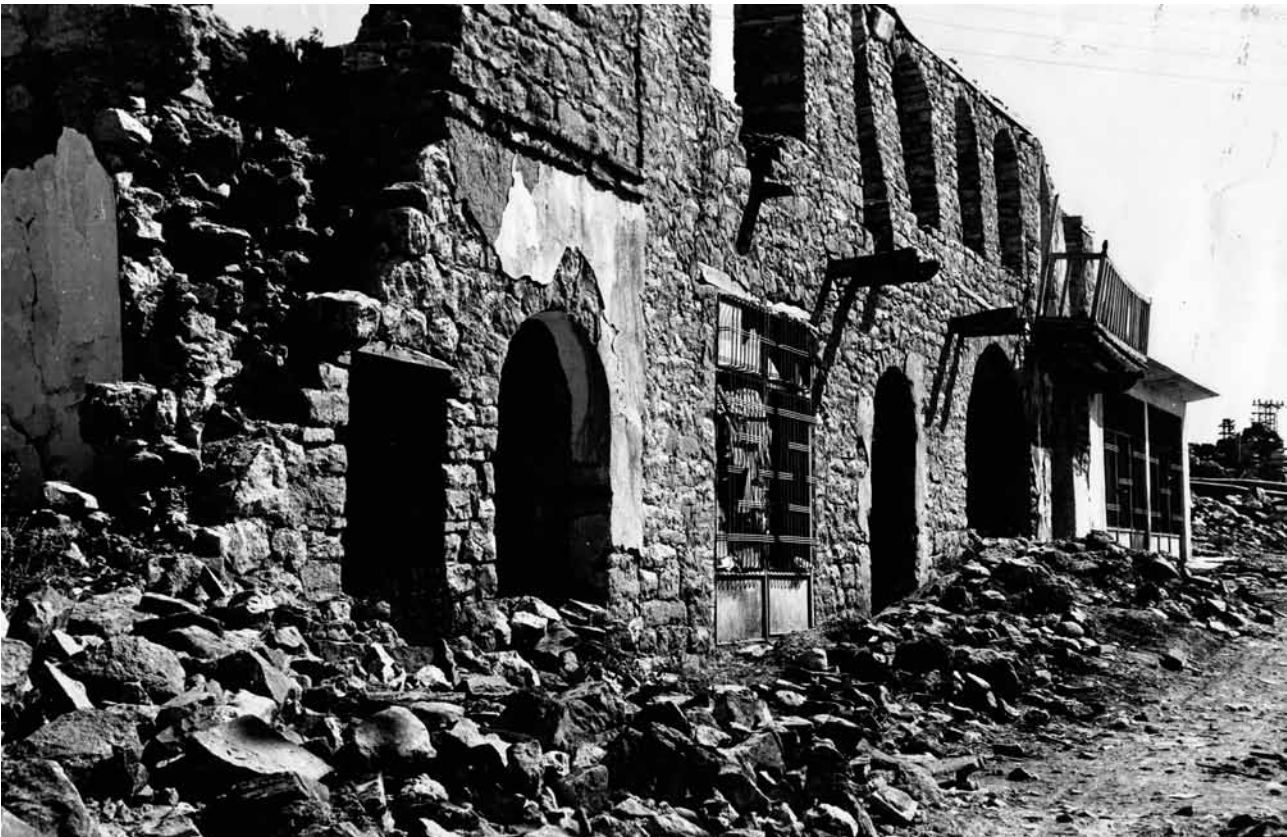
✗ Of the 463 Oxfam igloos, 44 were damaged, and it is probable that fewer than 50 were used. They failed on grounds of high cost, timing, fire risk and cultural issues. After the experience in Lice, Oxfam abandoned the system.

✗ The decision to relocate Lice has been very unpopular with its residents, and was made without their participation. The new site did not possess climatic shelter from the hillside, took valuable agricultural land out of use, and was initially without water supply. The new choice of a flat site may

have been influenced by the requirements of the prefabricated houses.

✗ The capacity of the Turkish Government to build prefabricated houses so rapidly (1,568 units in 54 days) was an achievement. However the houses had many deficiencies: climatic and cultural unsuitability; no provision for animals; they were too small; and they did little to generate local work. Essentially, they reflected an urban middle class set of values, in sharp contrast to rural values and priorities.

- Lice was the second major disaster to attract extensive financial aid from the Arab world, contributing of 11 million USD out of 15.7 million USD of external aid received, resulting in an imaginative project by Libya.



Traditional masonry housing in Lice in eastern Turkey that was damaged in the earthquake of September 1975. The old town of Lice was sited on a steep hillside (vulnerable to rock falls in any future earthquake.) The government decided to move the settlement to a new safe location, in a plain at the foot of the slope. However, this land was prime agricultural land. Further the hillside provided better protection from northerly winds than the new exposed site.
Photo: Ian Davis



A family added this porch to their new prefabricated home. It is an example of the need for protection for an animal, and also some protection for the door.
Photo: Ian Davis