DISASTER RESILIENCE OF SMEs IN TURKEY
RESEARCH REPORT
AUGUST 2019
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The research was carried out in Istanbul, İzmir, Ankara, Bursa and Antalya, with 400 SMEs which have employee population between 1-99. The research was aimed at identifying SMEs’ disaster awareness levels, the frequency of encounter of the potential risks and disaster types and how often they encountered, their level of disaster preparedness and what actions are being taken disaster risk reduction. The research was designed and conducted in order to contribute in the scholarly work in the field of disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management, future projects and business development, problem identification in efforts to raise disaster risk awareness and access to finding that would produce innovative solutions.

The research results reveal the fact that the disaster awareness levels of SMEs in the mentioned cities are quite low; thus, their disaster preparedness levels demonstrate a similar trend. Regardless of the disaster type, it was ascertained that SMEs do not think that they are exposed to risks due to disasters, therefore, allocating resources to disaster preparedness is unnecessary. For instance, although Istanbul is located on a first-degree earthquake fault line, %83 of SMEs in the city don’t perceive earthquake as a risk to their businesses and don’t get prepared. Another striking finding is about what SMEs think about their disaster preparedness levels and what actions they take in this path. While only %49 of the SMEs declared “prepared” against disasters, only half of those have an Emergency Action Plan. The training of the employees on disaster resilience and preparedness are not subjects that SMEs place emphasis on. Following this, it was also noted that the owners of the businesses didn’t have enough enthusiasm for collaboration with public and private sector.

The research findings revealed that the low levels of disaster resilience and preparedness among SMEs requires urgent and efficient solutions, and effective collaborations. Otherwise, it is highly possible to pay even bigger costs when disasters similar to Marmara and Van Earthquakes. In this regard, carrying out campaigns and trainings in medium and long terms in order to raise disaster awareness among SMEs and to establish cooperation frameworks between public and private sector will contribute to minimize the negative impacts and costs that will be caused by future disasters.
ABOUT THE RESEARCH

Objectives of the research:

• Discovering the SMEs readiness for disasters in Turkey
• Unraveling the risk areas of businesses

Field work:

• October-November 2018
• Computer assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) method
IN WHICH CITIES THE RESEARCH CONDUCTED?

400 Surveys
5 Cities

İSTANBUL: 58%
ANKARA: 15%
İZMİR: 12%
BURSA: 8%
ANTALYA: 7%
SMEs PROFILE

Job Position

- Founder/Owner/Partner: 201 (50.25%)
- Occupational Health and Safety Specialist: 92 (23%)
- Manager: 104 (26%)
- Other: 3 (0.75%)

Hazard Class

- Medium Danger: 307 (76.75%)
- High Danger: 7 (1.75%)
- Medium Danger: 46 (11.50%)
- Don't know/No idea: 40 (10%)

Staff Headcount

- Medium: 53 (13.25%)
- Small: 211 (52.75%)
- Micro: 136 (34%)

Sector

- Manufacturing: 32.50%
- Retail and wholesale, motor land vehicles repairment: 20.25%
- Transportation and warehousing: 15.75%
- Accommodation and food services: 9.75%
- Other services: 6.25%
- Vocational, scientific and technical activities: 6%
- Construction: 5%
- Culture, art, entertainment, leisure and sport: 1%
- Healthcare and social services: 1%
- Administrative and support services: 1%
- Real Estate: 1%
- Information and communication: 1%
- Other services: 1%
HAVE YOU EVER HAD ANY DISASTERS IN YOUR WORKPLACE?

97% of SMEs did not have disasters at their workplace.

- 2% FLOOD
- 0.7% EARTHQUAKE
- 0.3% FIRE

“My workplace has flood risk.”

- 7% Agree
- 16% Neither Agree Nor Disagree
- 77% Disagree
“My workplace is on the earthquake fault line.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Structural Fires</th>
<th>Nonstructural Fires</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>Factor Workplace</td>
<td>Other Buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>4,815</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>5,922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>5,394</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>7,382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>5,123</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>7,036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>4,902</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>7,853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>5,201</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>7,869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>5,889</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>8,957</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**“My workplace carries fire risk.”**

- **11%** Agree
- **13%** Neither Agree Nor Disagree
- **76%** Disagree
REGULATIONS ON EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

Only 31% of SMEs have emergency action plan!

Do you have an emergency action plan?

- Yes: 31%
- No: 69%
EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

• Only 49% of SMEs are stating to be ready for disasters and emergencies.

• Among them, only half have emergency action plan!

Is your workplace prepared for disasters and emergencies?

If prepared, do you have an emergency action plan?

If no training, is your workplace prepared for disasters and emergencies?

TRAININGS

46% of SMEs did not have any trainings to get prepared for disasters and emergencies.

Disaster training

search, rescue and evacuation training

Fire fighting training

No training received

First-aid training

10% 41% 49%

10% 21% 27%

15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55

15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55

50%

20% 27% 46% 50%

71% 19% 10%

TRAININGS

Not prepared

Neither prepared or not prepared

Prepared

No training received

First-aid training

Fire fighting training

search, rescue and evacuation training

Disaster training

20% 21% 27% 46%
DRILLS

59% of SMEs did not have any trainings to get prepared for disasters and emergencies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DRILL</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Search, rescue and evacuation drill</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earthquake Drill</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No drill performed</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Drill</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESEARCH FINDINGS

The risk perception level of SMEs in Turkey is very low. SMEs in Turkey are unaware of the risks of their geography. Risk perception of SMEs in Turkey does not vary according to disaster types. Although 49% of SMEs in Turkey think they are prepared for disasters and emergencies, there is no rationale behind this thinking. Although business think that they are prepared for disasters and emergencies, they are far behind in implementing disaster preparations such as training and exercises.