

## Türkiye – earthquake response

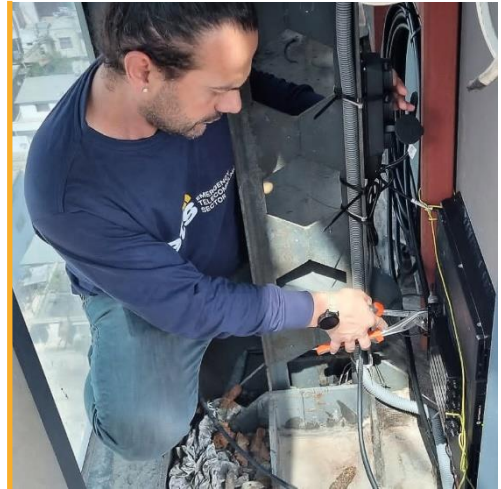
### ETS Situation Report #10

Reporting period: 18/04/2023 to 01/05/2023

The Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) response in Türkiye is co-led by WFP and the Government of Türkiye Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure to support the response in the areas affected by the multiple earthquakes that struck on 6 February 2023. ETS Türkiye Situation Reports are issued bi-weekly.

## Highlights

- During this reporting period, the ETS continued to participate in support and planning activities across five affected areas—Gaziantep, Antakya (Hatay), Malatya, Kahramanmaraş, and Şanlıurfa. The ETS has scaled down its operation activities as it is working in collaboration with other partners to transition its activities by 17 May.
- There remains a total of 20 charging station units established in two temporary settlements in the affected areas of Türkiye—10 in Sadaka settlement in Hatay and 10 in Malat settlement in Malatya. Affected populations can use the services free-of-charge to power their communications devices. The ETS is working with the settlement management to improve and maintain access to the services.
- The ETS, in collaboration with UNDSS, is procuring security communications equipment to upgrade the existing UHF radio repeater site for the United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) in Gaziantep, Hatay, Sanliurfa, and Kilis, and to add two more UHF radio sites in Reyhanli and Mersin. The procurement process has been initiated.



The ETS is enhancing the UHF radio network across multiple earthquake-affected areas.  
Photo: WFP/ETS

## Situation overview

The response to the Kahramanmaraş earthquakes is led by the Government of Türkiye, coordinated through the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD). The international humanitarian community is supporting the Government of Türkiye to provide assistance to the affected population.

OCHA<sup>1</sup> reports that people displaced after the earthquakes are showing interest in returning to their areas of origin. This is partly attributed to the development of formal settlements housing people in ‘container cities’.

<sup>1</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/turkiye/turkiye-2023-earthquakes-situation-report-no-16-27-april-2023>

Further, a heavy storm hit Pazarçık district in Kahramanmaraş on 20 April, impacting earthquake-affected people. Tents and containers in both informal and formal settlements were blown away and damaged, exposing affected communities to harsh weather conditions.

## ETS activities

### Coordination

- ETS coordination based in Gaziantep continues to support the government-led response with its operational objectives for the earthquake response under the three-month Flash Appeal period that focuses on provision of data connectivity and security communications to responders, and services for the affected population. The ETS will transition or phase out all its services on 17 May.
- During this reporting period, the ETS continued to participate in support and planning activities across five affected areas—Gaziantep, Antakya (Hatay), Malatya, Kahramanmaraş, and Şanlıurfa. The ETS has scaled down its operation activities as it is working in collaboration with other partners to transition its activities by 17 May.

### Services for communities

- There remains a total of 20 charging station units established in two temporary settlements in the affected areas of Türkiye—10 in Sadaka settlement in Hatay and 10 in Malat settlement in Malatya. Affected populations can use the services free-of-charge to power their communications devices. The ETS is working with the settlement management to improve and maintain access to the services.
- The recent assessments of the temporary settlements in the earthquake-affected areas showed that most members of the affected populations now have access to power to charge their devices. Further, the charging station vendors have informed the ETS of a considerable delay in the delivery of the units. Therefore, the ETS is suspending the purchase of the additional 60 charging stations initially planned for formal and informal settlements in Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Adiyaman and Malatya.

### Data connectivity

- The ETS continues to provide support on an *ad hoc* basis for improved access to the established connectivity at two United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) coordination sites in Hatay and Kahramanmaraş.
- During this reporting period, there was no support visit conducted to UNDAC coordination sites for support provision as in the last mission, which tested data connectivity and internet stability, it was established that the network was functioning properly, and no further action needed.

### Security communications

- The ETS, in collaboration with UNDSS, is procuring security communications equipment to upgrade the existing UHF radio repeater site for the United Nations Security Management

System (UNSMS) in Gaziantep, Hatay, Sanliurfa, and Kilis, and to add two more UHF radio sites in Reyhanli and Mersin. The procurement process has been initiated.

- The proposed relocation of the existing radio repeater to the UN office in Sanliurfa to reduce on recurring hosting costs has been successful. The ETS, UNDSS, and the vendor have led engagements to install the repeater on the office building roof. UNDSS is currently engaging with the vendor for the relocation process.
- The ETS assessed security communications services in Kilis, finding there is no UHF radio network coverage, and the repeater has no electricity supply. The ETS is working with the vendor to re-supply power. The ETS is also planning to install solar power as a back-up supply.

## Funding

The ETS appealed for US\$1 million for the duration of the Flash Appeal response, launched on 16 February. A total of US\$500,000 from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) was received on 22 February for both the ETS and the Logistics Sector.

The ETS response has been supported by a WFP Standby Partner staff and equipment from Ericsson Response.

## Challenges

The large geographical distance between the affected regions of Türkiye impacts on the timeliness of field missions and activities.

## Mapping

See the latest version of the ETS Dashboard for the Türkiye response [here](#).

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) continues to track mobile network and data connectivity across a 200 kilometres radius of the earthquake epicentre using the [Disaster Connectivity Maps \(DCM\)](#) tool<sup>2</sup>, active since 6 February when the earthquakes first hit.

## Meetings

The next Global ETC Partners Teleconference on the earthquake response will take place on **Thursday 15 May 2023 at 14:00 UTC**.

The next Local ETS Working Group meeting will be scheduled on an ad hoc basis as the need arises.

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<sup>2</sup> To view the platform for Türkiye, select 'disaster events' and choose 'Turkey | 7.8M earthquake' from the drop-down list

## Contacts

NAME	POSITION	LOCATION	CONTACT
Khawar Ilyas	ETS Coordinator	Gaziantep	<a href="mailto:Turkiye.ETS@wfp.org">Turkiye.ETS@wfp.org</a>
Johnson Taremwa	ETS Information Management Officer (IMO)	Uganda	<a href="mailto:Turkiye.ETS@wfp.org">Turkiye.ETS@wfp.org</a>

All information related to the ETS earthquake operation can be found on the website:

[www.etcluster.org/emergency/turkiye-earthquakes](http://www.etcluster.org/emergency/turkiye-earthquakes)

For more information or to be added or deleted from the mailing list please contact:

[Turkiye.ETS@wfp.org](mailto:Turkiye.ETS@wfp.org)