

Türkiye – earthquake response

ETS Situation Report #7

Reporting period: 14/03/2023 to 20/03/2023

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 weekly.

Highlights

- The ETS set up a further 10 charging station units in a temporary settlement managed by the government authorities in Malatya from 17 to 18 March, following an assessment carried out on 13 March.
- The charging station services in Hatay and Malatya provide access to a safe and dedicated space for communities impacted by the earthquakes to charge their communications devices.
- The ETS Coordinator based in Gaziantep left the operation on 19 March after a one-month mission across both Ankara and Gaziantep. A new ETS Coordinator has rotated into the operation, based in Gaziantep.



The ETS set up 10 charging station units for affected people in Malatya to power their communications devices. Photo: WFP/ETS

Situation overview

Multiple aftershocks continue to impact Türkiye. Most recently, an earthquake of magnitude 4.3 occurred in Göksun, Kahramanmaraş, on 19 March. There have been thousands of aftershocks across south-east and central Türkiye since the 6 February earthquakes.

Over the past week, heavy rains and storms have caused flash floods in Adıyaman and Şanlıurfa, two cities that were already reeling from the impact of the earthquakes. The floods have further compounded the already challenging conditions for those living in the temporary settlements, with many tents being inundated by floodwaters.

The response to the earthquakes is being led by the Government of Türkiye, coordinated through the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) and with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC). The international humanitarian community is supporting the Government of Türkiye in providing immediate assistance to the affected population.

The total number of people provided with shelter and accommodation is more than 3.5 million, including 1.9 million people provided with shelter in the earthquake affected regions.¹

¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/turkiye/turkiye-2023-earthquakes-situation-report-no-10-17-march-2023-entr>

ETS activities

Coordination

- The ETS Coordinator based in Gaziantep left the operation on 19 March after a one-month mission across both Ankara and Gaziantep. A new ETS Coordinator has rotated into the operation, based in Gaziantep.
- The ETS is planning to fulfil its operational objectives for the earthquake response by the end of the Flash Appeal timeline, including for data connectivity, security communications, and services for communities.
- The ETS continues to engage with OCHA to identify the areas in which the sector can support the consolidated list of equipment and non-food items shared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) with UN sectors on 4 March to support the response, within the scope of the Flash Appeal.
- The fourth Local ETS Working Group meeting was held on 15 March in Gaziantep and was also available online, using an automatic translation tool to provide information in Turkish. A representative from the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure—the focal Ministry assigned to the ETS response—attended the meeting. The meeting discussed ETS coordination and activities, as well as the needs of partners on the ground.

Services for communities

- The ETS set up 10 charging station units in a temporary settlement managed by the government authorities in Malatya from 17 to 18 March, following an assessment carried out on 13 March. The charging stations services provide access to a safe and dedicated space for the approximately 2,000 affected people staying in the temporary settlement to charge their communications devices. The devices are equipped with instructions in English, Turkish, and Arabic to enhance access to the service for affected communities.
- There are also 10 charging station units operational in two temporary settlements in Hatay, set up in partnership with the settlement management authorities (Ministry of Education) and a local NGO (Sadakataş). The charging stations are available for use by the affected populations in Hatay to power communications devices for improved access to critical communications services and information.
- The ETS received a request from the government authorities in Hatay to support the temporary settlements there with a further 40 charging station units. The ETS is further assessing the needs in response to this request.

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.

Security communications

- The ETS is engaging with UNDSS to strengthen the security communications services in the affected areas—for three sites where a UHF radio network was already established

(Gaziantep, Hatay and Sanliurfa), as well as one site where a new UHF radio network is planned to be established (Malatya). Radio communications provides a back-up to support the safety and security of UN staff in the field in the case that mobile networks are disrupted.

- The ETS continues to build the capacity of UN agencies to use security communications equipment in the field. The ETS is planning to deliver UHF handheld radio training to seven staff from OCHA, UNFPA, and UNDSS. So far, 34 WFP staff have attended the UHF handheld radio training sessions.

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

All International and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Türkiye must apply through an accreditation system through the authorities to operate in-country.

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 \(DCM\)](#) tool², active since 6 February when the earthquakes first hit.

Meetings

The next Global ETC Partners Teleconference on the earthquake response will take place on **Tuesday 21 March 2023 at 14:00 UTC**.

The next Local ETS Working Group meeting will take place online and in Gaziantep on **Wednesday 22 March 2023 at 14:00 local time**.

² The DCM landing page has been orientated to the cyclone emergency in Vanuatu. 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 | Turkiye.ETS@wfp.org |
| Elizabeth Millership | ETS Information Management Officer (IMO) | Gaziantep | Turkiye.ETS@wfp.org |

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

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