

Türkiye – earthquake response

ETS Situation Report #8

Reporting period: 21/03/2023 to 03/04/2023

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

- The ETS coordinated with UNDSS to restore the UHF radio repeater in Hatay during a mission on 28 March. The repeater facilitates the emergency communications needs of United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) staff in the area.
- As part of the earthquake response, the ETS has so far engaged in support and planning activities across five affected areas—Gaziantep, Antakya (Hatay), Malatya, Kahramanmaraş, and Şanlıurfa. Following a request from the government authorities, the sector is re-examining the needs in Adıyaman.
- The ETS received requests from the government authorities to support affected populations in the temporary settlements in Hatay, Malatya and Adıyaman with a further 60 charging stations units. The needs, feasibility and specifications of the request have been carried out and the ETS is procuring 60 solar powered units for installation.



The UHF radio repeater in Hatay is now restored for security communications services.
Photo: WFP/ETS

Situation overview

Multiple aftershocks continue to impact Türkiye at a decreasing frequency and intensity. There have been thousands of aftershocks since the 6 February Kahramanmaraş earthquakes.

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 to provide assistance to the affected population.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has reported that the earthquakes in Türkiye have resulted in the displacement of about 3 million people. The latest data from the Temporary Settlement Support sector reveals that over 2.4 million people are currently living in temporary settlements.¹

¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/turkiye/turkiye-2023-earthquakes-situation-report-no-12-30-march-2023-entr>

ETS activities

Coordination

- ETS coordination is based in Gaziantep to support the government-led response. The ETS is planning to fulfil its operational objectives for the earthquake response by the end of the three-month Flash Appeal timeline, including for data connectivity, security communications, and services for communities. Services will be transitioned, handed over or phased out in late April/early May.
- The ETS has so far engaged in support and planning activities across five affected areas—Gaziantep, Antakya (Hatay), Malatya, Kahramanmaraş, and Şanlıurfa. Following a request from the government authorities, the sector is re-examining the needs in Adiyaman.
- Alongside the other response sectors, the ETS identified how it 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 ETS is exploring with its partners the provision of support for satellite phone equipment and is seeking further details on the location where the service is needed.

Services for communities

- There are a total of 20 charging station units set up 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 service free-of-charge to power their communications devices. The ETS is working with the settlement management to improve and maintain access to the services, as well as possibly expand in the Malat settlement
- The ETS received requests from the government authorities to support affected populations the temporary settlements in Hatay, Malatya and Adiyaman with a further 60 charging stations units. The needs, feasibility and specifications of the request have been carried out and the ETS has initiated the procurement process for 60 solar powered units—40 of the units will be installed in Hatay while the remaining 20 will be installed in Malatya and Adiyaman.

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 met with UNDSS on 27 March to brief on the security communications response plan and highlight gaps in the existing UHF radio infrastructure as well as the requirements for the new site. The ETS is now working on the implementation plan with UNDSS.
- The ETS coordinated with the UNDSS service contractor, which restored the UHF radio repeater in Hatay during a mission on 28 March. The ETS carried out a successful coverage test across Antakya, including the airport area. The repeater facilitates the emergency communications needs of United Nations Security Management System (UNSMS) staff in the area.
- The ETS continues to offer capacity building sessions for UN agencies to use security communications equipment in the field. So far, UN 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.

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.

Meetings

The next Global ETC Partners Teleconference on the earthquake response will take place on **Tuesday 18 April 2023 at 14:00 UTC**.

The next Local ETS Working Group meeting will take place online and in Gaziantep on **Wednesday 5 April 2023 at 14:00 local time**.

Contacts

NAME	POSITION	LOCATION	CONTACT
Khawar Ilyas	ETS Coordinator	Gaziantep	Turkiye.ETS@wfp.org
Elizabeth Millership	ETS Information Management Officer (IMO)	U.A.E.	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