

# Türkiye – earthquake response

## ETS Situation Report #9

Reporting period: 04/04/2023 to 17/04/2023

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

- On 04 April, the ETS trained four Security Operations Centre (SOC) staff to operate the SOC in Gaziantep.
- The ETS conducted assessments in temporary settlements in Adiyaman, Malatya, and Kahramanmaraş to identify needs for additional charging stations.
- The ETS is currently evaluating technical and financial proposals received from vendors for 60 charging station units with solar power. 40 charging stations will be installed in temporary settlements in Hatay and a further 20 units in Malatya, Adiyaman and Kahramanmaraş.



ETS training SOC operators in Malatya.  
Photo: WFP/ETS

## Situation overview

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.

According to OCHA, the earthquakes in Türkiye resulted in the displacement of about 3 million people and approximately 1.6 million people have been reported to be currently living in informal settlements<sup>1</sup>

## ETS activities

### Coordination

<sup>1</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/turkiye/turkiye-2023-earthquakes-situation-report-no-14-13-april-2023>

- ETS coordination based in Gaziantep continues to support the government-led response. The ETS' operational objectives for the earthquake response under the three-month Flash Appeal timeline are focused on providing data connectivity and security communications to responders, and services for the affected population. All these services will be transitioned, handed over or phased out in late April/early May.
- In this reporting period, the ETS has continued to engage 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 has re-examined the needs in Adiyaman.

### 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.
- On 10 April, the ETS team conducted a field mission to Kahramanmaraş and attended a local coordination meeting where they interacted with key actors on ground with the purpose of identifying any charging station needs. The team visited two camps and interacted with camp managers who expressed the need to set up charging stations in common areas.
- On 30 March, ETS conducted an assessment in Adiyaman with support of the local authorities to establish if there is any need for charging station services in the container cities established for people displaced by the earthquakes. A need was found in a tent campus location serving as a school with 1,500 students. The school requested charging stations in the library area, teacher's lounge, and restaurants.
- Further, the ETS carried out an assessment mission in Malatya on 30 March to identify any need for charging station services. A need was identified in a temporary settlement site called 'Sugar Factory', which hosts approximately 4,000 Turkish and Syrian people. The existing power charging system set up in the Sugar Factory site was not operational.
- The ETS is assessing its ability to respond to these requests and is currently evaluating technical and financial proposals received from vendors for 60 charging station units with solar power capacity. 40 charging stations will be installed in temporary settlements in Hatay and a further 20 units in Malatya, Adiyaman and Kahramanmaraş.

### 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.
- On 10 April, ETS conducted a mission to UNDAC to test data connectivity and internet stability and it was established the network was functioning properly as no further action needed.

## Security communications

- The ETS is engaging with UNDSS to strengthen the security communications services in the affected areas – by enhancing the coverage and performance of the existing UHF radio repeaters in Gaziantep, Hatay, Urfa, and Kilis, and extending the network to two new locations – Mersin and Reyhanli. 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 finalized a procurement list for the equipment required for the enhancement and expansion of the UHF network. This list has been endorsed by UNDSS and WFP management and the procurement process initiated.
- On 10 April, the ETS conducted a mission to Urfa which found that the existing repeater at the Hilton building has a satisfactory coverage of the city. However, to reduce the cost of hosting the repeater at the current site, the ETS is proposing a relocation of the repeater to the UN office in Urfa. ETS is coordinating with the head of WFP's sub-office and building management to allow installation. Once this is approved, UNDSS will initiate the relocation process with the support of a contractor.
- Further assessment was conducted in Kilis on 10 April, where the team found no radio network coverage and was unable to access the radio repeater. The ETS is working with the UNDSS vendor maintaining the repeater to identify its location and plan a visit to troubleshoot.
- On 4 April, the ETS trained four Security Operations Centre (SOC) staff to operate the SOC in Gaziantep, currently based in the OCHA office as a temporary solution until the UN House is declared safe by the contractors.

## 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 \(DCM\)](#) 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 **Tuesday 18 April 2023 at 14:00 UTC**.

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

## Contacts

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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:

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<sup>2</sup> 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.