

## Türkiye – earthquake response

### ETS Situation Report #3

Reporting period: 24/02/2023 to 27/02/2023

WFP is co-leading the Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) response, established for Türkiye to support government-led relief efforts to the areas affected by the multiple earthquakes that struck on 6 February 2023.

## Highlights

- On 24 February, the ETS and the Logistics Sector met jointly with the Government of Türkiye’s Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure—lead Ministry for both Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications sectors—to exchange information on response activities carried out so far. The Ministry focal point to coordinate with the two sectors was communicated on 27 February.
- Additional ICT surge capacity from global partner, Ericsson Response, joined the ETS in Gaziantep as a WFP standby partner (SBP) on 25 February.
- The ETS went to Malatya on 27 February to conduct an assessment, meet with local actors, and identify any gaps for common ICT services. The sector met with OCHA’s UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC), and it was determined that at this stage, it is unlikely that a common humanitarian hub will be set up in the region. The ETS remains on standby to support services there, if needed.



The ETS team is meeting with partners across the affected regions to assess the needs for humanitarians and affected populations. Photo: WFP/ETS

## Situation overview

Aftershocks continue to impact on the recovery efforts of the humanitarian community throughout the south-eastern region of Türkiye. A magnitude 5.6 earthquake occurred in Malatya Province on 27 February, just three weeks after the first catastrophic tremors devastated the region. The quake centred in the town of Yeşilyurt and caused several buildings to collapse, injuring 110 people and causing the death of another one.<sup>1</sup>

Given the scale of the disaster, relief and recovery efforts continue to be planned accordingly. Joint multi-sector rapid needs assessments are ongoing in the affected locations.

<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/magnitude-55-quake-strikes-eastern-turkey-emsc-2023-02-27/>

## ETS activities

### Coordination

- The ETS is supporting the government-led response, coordinated by the Government of Türkiye's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD).
- On 24 February, the ETS and the Logistics Sector met jointly with the Government of Türkiye's Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure—lead Ministry for both sectors. The ETS presented its mandate and response activities in Türkiye so far. The Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure also introduced their role and activities and will share the response data collected with the sectors to facilitate information exchange. A follow-up meeting will be held as needed. The Ministry focal point to coordinate with the two sectors was communicated on 27 February.
- Additional ICT surge capacity from global partner, Ericsson Response, joined the ETS in Gaziantep as a WFP standby partner (SBP) on 25 February. One more ICT technician is joining the ETS team on 28 February to complete the team as per the staffing requirements.

### Assessments

- The ETS went to Malatya on 27 February to conduct an assessment, meet with local actors operating there, and identify any gaps for common ICT services. At the same time, a 5.6 earthquake hit Yeşilyurt in Malatya province causing significant impact in an area already heavily damaged by the 6 February earthquakes. Due to the new earthquake, the ETS engagement with local actors in Malatya was cancelled. However, the sector was still able to meet with UNDAC and it was determined that at this stage, it is unlikely that a common humanitarian hub will be set up in the region. The ETS remains on standby to support services there, if needed.

### Data connectivity

- The ETS went to Hatay on 26 February to support the data connectivity user and access management of the services being delivered by the Government of Luxembourg as part of the UNDAC team for UNDAC and the International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP) in the New Hatay Stadium responder base. The Ericsson Response SBP set up equipment to secure and optimize the bandwidth of the data connectivity services.
- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has requested the ETS to explore the possibility of extending the existing data connectivity to 10 tents being set up to accommodate humanitarian responders in New Hatay Stadium.

### Services for communities

- Following engagement with the authorities, on 27 February the governor of Hatay officially confirmed the request to the ETS to install charging stations for affected populations in the temporary settlements in Hatay. The need for access to power was found during the ICT assessments conducted in Hatay from 17 to 19 February to enable the population to access critical communications services and information.

## Security communications

- The ETS went to Sanliurfa on 25 February to assess the radio repeater site as part of three security communications assessments across the affected areas of Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, and Kilis. It was found that there is extremely limited UHF radio coverage in Sanliurfa. Although the repeater is functional, it is recommended to raise it to a higher location or raise the antennae. The ETS is engaging with UNHCR to move the repeater to their premises which is higher and would ensure coverage of the city. The UHF radio coverage in Kilis will be assessed next.<sup>2</sup>
- A summary of the status of UN security communications services across the affected areas is outlined here:

Location	Status of security communications (UHF radio network)
<b>Adiyaman</b>	The ETS is on standby to support the need for security communications if a humanitarian hub is set up
<b>Gaziantep</b>	Operational before the earthquake. Although the services are still operational, they require improvements
<b>Hatay</b>	Operational before the earthquake. However, now the repeater is not functional or accessible
<b>Kahramanmaras</b>	The ETS is on standby to support the need for security communications if a humanitarian hub is set up
<b>Kilis</b>	Operational before the earthquake. Will be assessed on 28 February
<b>Mersin</b>	Tentative plan to set up security communications
<b>Malatya</b>	Tentative plan to set up security communications
<b>Sanliurfa</b>	Operational before the earthquake. Now there is extremely limited coverage. Requires improvements

## Funding

The ETS is appealing for US\$1 million for three months' response. A total of US\$499,000 from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) was received on 22 February for both the ETS and the Logistics Sector.

WFP supported the ETS with a loan of US\$300,000 to kickstart staffing needs, as well as the delivery of security communications services for humanitarians and charging station services for affected populations.

<sup>2</sup> Note: Radio is a back-up form of communications in Türkiye. Mobile phones communications (GSM) remain the primary security communications means in Türkiye, as per UNDSS.

## Challenges

A large scale-up of humanitarian activities is ongoing in Türkiye in response to the earthquake disaster, which requires additional staffing and equipment in multiple locations. The exact locations for are pending confirmation. The ETS is working with partners on the ground to plan for the possible locations where common ICT services may be needed.

The local procurement of some ICT equipment—including charging stations—is lengthy. The ETS is exploring all local and international opportunities to procure the required equipment, as well as utilizing in-kind donations.

All Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Türkiye must apply through an accreditation system through the authorities to operate in-country. The process can take up to three months. Alternative options may be considered by AFAD to allow International NGOs to operate as part of the response to the earthquakes in Türkiye. More information will be shared on the process.

## Dashboard

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

## Meetings

The next Global ETC Partners Teleconference on the earthquake response will take place on **Wednesday 1 March 2023 at 14:00 UTC**.

The next Local ETS Working Group meeting will take place online and in Gaziantep on **Thursday 2 March 2023 at 14:00 local time**.

## 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)

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