

## Türkiye – earthquake response

### ETS Situation Report #4

Reporting period: 28/02/2023 to 02/03/2023

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.

## Highlights

- Following assessments and engagement with local actors across the affected areas, the ETS has identified three service delivery activities to enable humanitarians to operate efficiently and to support the government of Türkiye response by providing access to communications to affected populations in temporary settlements.
- The ETS is enhancing data connectivity services in up to four common locations where the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) coordination is based—Malatya, Adiyaman, Hatay, and Kahramanmaraş.
- In support of UNDSS, the ETS is ensuring that security communications systems are available and strengthened in the affected regions to support the safety and security of UN staff in the field.



The ETS is supporting enhanced data connectivity services for humanitarians in up to four locations impacted by the earthquakes. Photo: WFP/ETS

## Situation overview

Multiple aftershocks continue to impact the south-east region of Türkiye, including a 5.0 magnitude earthquake experienced in Göksun, Kahramanmaraş province, in the early hours of 3 March. There have been over 11,000 aftershocks across 11 cities in Türkiye since the 7.8 and 7.7 magnitude Kahramanmaraş earthquakes hit on 6 February 2023<sup>1</sup>.

According to an International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) market assessment, hot meals and essential food, shelter, WASH, and non-food items are critical needs in the affected areas.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://en.afad.gov.tr/press-bulletin-36-about-the-earthquake-in-kahramanmaras>

<sup>2</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/turkiye/kahramanmaras-earthquake-turkiye-rapid-market-assessment-dire-humanitarian-situation-6-february->

## ETS activities

### Coordination

- The ETS response in Türkiye is co-led by WFP and the Government of Türkiye's Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure. Coordination between both counterparts has been ongoing since 24 February. The Ministry focal point assigned to coordinate with the ETS attended the third local ETS Working Group meeting on 2 March.
- The Inter Sector Coordination (ISC) cell in Ankara came to an end on 1 March and all inter sector coordination is now based in Gaziantep. One of two ETS coordination roles will continue to be based in Ankara to liaise with the Ministry and support the ETS team in Gaziantep.
- Following a series of assessments and engagement with local actors across the affected areas, the ETS has identified three service delivery activities to implement to enable humanitarians to operate efficiently and to support the government with free-access communications to affected populations in the temporary settlements. The services will be handed over to local actors and the local authorities as needed.

### Services for communities

- The ETS is mapping the existing free-of-charge hotspots available to affected populations to identify and support any critical gaps in the impacted regions. The sector plans to further engage with national services providers to confirm the information and their support.
- On 4 March, the first 10 charging station units will be delivered in Hatay to be set up at temporary settlement locations prioritized with the government's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD). A further 10 charging station units are being procured. The services will further enable the population to access critical communications services and information.

### Data connectivity

- The ETS is enhancing data connectivity services in up to four common locations where UNDAC coordination is based—Malatya, Adiyaman, Hatay, and Kahramanmaraş—to assist humanitarians to coordinate and deliver assistance. The connectivity services can be accessed by all humanitarians visiting the bases.
- Enhanced user access and internet bandwidth management has been set up in Hatay on 26 February and in Kahramanmaraş on 2 March.

### Security communications

- In support of UNDSS, the ETS is ensuring that security communications systems are available and strengthened in the affected regions to support the safety and security of

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UN staff in the field. Radio communications and satellite phones are the back-up solutions in case GSM (mobile phones/voice) is impacted.

- The UHF radio network has been assessed in three locations impacted by the earthquakes—Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, and Kilis—and a set of recommendations for network improvements and expansion for these locations is being discussed with UNDSS.
- For security communications in Gaziantep, the ETS is engaging with UNDSS and WFP on relocating the Security Operations Centre (SOC) from the temporary OCHA office location to an alternative temporary location while the UN House is being certified as safe.
- For security communications in Sanliurfa, the ETS is engaging with UNHCR to move the repeater to their premises which is higher and would ensure UHF radio coverage of the city.
- For security communications in Kilis, the ETS is organizing access to the AFAD building in Kilis where the repeater is based to conduct a further assessment.
- ETS support for security communications services include short user training sessions on UHF radio systems. The ETS held a capacity building session for 11 WFP drivers on 1 March to use UHF handheld radios in the field. So far, 28 WFP staff have attended the training sessions.

## Funding

The ETS is appealing for US\$1 million for the duration of the Flash Appeal response. 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 is supported by a WFP Standby Partner 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.

## Mapping

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

International Telecommunication Union (ITU) continues to track mobile network and data connectivity across a 200 kilometre radius of the earthquake epicentre using the [Disaster Connectivity Maps \(DCM\)](#) tool, active since 6 February when the earthquakes first hit. By 11 February, 3G data connectivity had been restored to 90% of the normal status in Türkiye. Pockets of connectivity loss are still evident across all the affected areas. ITU is monitoring the impact of the aftershock earthquakes on mobile network coverage and connectivity.

## Meetings

The next Global ETC Partners Teleconference on the earthquake response will take place on **Tuesday 7 March 2023 at 14:00 UTC.**

The next Local ETS Working Group meeting will take place online and in Gaziantep on **Thursday 9 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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