

Türkiye – earthquake response

ETS Situation Report #5

Reporting period: 03/03/2023 to 06/03/2023

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

- Since 1 March, inter-sector coordination is based in Gaziantep only. ETS coordination will be present in both Ankara and Gaziantep for the immediate future.
- On 4 March, the first 10 charging station mobile units arrived in Hatay and were set up by the ETS in a temporary settlement for affected populations to power communications devices and facilitate access to information. So far, one out of 10 charging stations is operational, powered by a generator.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) shared the government's consolidated list of needs for equipment and non-food items across the sectors to support the earthquake response on 4 March. Via OCHA, the ETS is engaging in this process to confirm which communications equipment needs could be supported within the scope of the Flash Appeal launched on 16 February, as well as the available funding.



The first charging station mobile unit for affected communities has been set up in a temporary settlement in Hatay. Photo: WFP/ETS

Situation overview

Multiple aftershocks continue to impact the south-east region of Türkiye, including a 4.8 magnitude earthquake near Dörtyol, Hatay province, at close to midnight on 5 March. There have been over 11,020 aftershocks across south-east Türkiye since the 7.7 and 7.6 magnitude Kahramanmaraş earthquakes hit on 6 February 2023¹.

The response to the earthquakes is being led by the Government of Türkiye, coordinated through the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) and with the Turkish Red Crescent. The international humanitarian community is supporting the Government of Türkiye to aid the affected population. As of 1 March, temporary settlements been

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

established in 11 provinces. The number of people who have been provided with shelter services in and outside of the disaster zone is more than 1.9 million².

ETS activities

Coordination

- The ETS response in Türkiye is co-led by WFP and the government's Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure. Since 1 March, inter-sector coordination is based in Gaziantep only. ETS coordination will be present in both Ankara and Gaziantep for the immediate future.
- The ETS is planning to implement and handover its services for the earthquake response in line with the Flash Appeal. ETS funding requirements remain as stated in the Türkiye Earthquake Flash Appeal, launched on 16 February to support government relief efforts. The ETS appealed for US\$1 million to coordinate ICT activities and provide security communications, internet connectivity, customer support, capacity building, and services for communities.
- MoFA shared the government's consolidated list of needs for equipment and non-food items across the sectors to support the earthquake response on 4 March. Via OCHA, the ETS is engaging in this process to confirm which communications equipment needs could be supported within the scope of the Flash Appeal launched on 16 February, as well as the available funding.

Services for communities

- On 4 March, the first 10 charging station mobile units arrived in Hatay and were set up by the ETS in a temporary settlement for affected populations to power communications devices and facilitate access to information. So far, one out of 10 charging stations is operational, powered by a generator.
- The ETS engaged with solar power vendors to explore opportunities for a back-up power source for the charging station units. One company in Gaziantep donated three small solar panel units to support the charging stations in Hatay. The units will be collected and installed on 7 March.
- Once fully operational, the charging station services will be handed over to local NGOs in Hatay, in collaboration with AFAD and the local authorities.
- A further 10 charging station units are expected to be delivered for installation in temporary settlements in either Hatay or Adiyaman, based on the needs.

² https://reliefweb.int/report/turkiye/kahramanmaras-earthquake-turkiye-rapid-market-assessment-dire-humanitarian-situation-6-february-2023?_gl=1*19kfu20*_ga*MTU2MDE2NjAwNi4xNjY5ODcyODE3*_ga_E60ZNX2F68*MTY3NzY5Njg4Mi4xNzMuMS4xNjc3Njk3NTE4LjkuMC4w

Security communications

- The ETS continues to build the capacity of UN agencies to use security communications equipment in the field to support their safety and security. The sector has received several requests for UHF handheld radio training for UNFPA, UNDSS, and OCHA, which will be carried out this week.
- The ETS is working with partners to enhance the UHF radio network in Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, and Kilis, after damage was sustained to the equipment in these locations due to the earthquake.
 - The Security Operations Centre (SOC) temporarily located in the OCHA office in Gaziantep will be relocated back to the UN House, once it is re-opened in several weeks' time.
 - In Sanliurfa, the ETS is engaging with UNHCR to relocate the antenna to a higher location.
 - In Kilis, the ETS is planning to end the antenna to increase the UHF network coverage in the city.
- A meeting with a local vendor was held on 3 March to identify their in-stock equipment and staffing capacity to support planned ETS security communications activities. The ETS shared the technical requirements—the vendor sent a stock list for review by the ETS and confirmed it can provide equipment, services, and maintenance activities.
- A technical UN ICT Working Group is held weekly to discuss planning for common services to enhance security communications services. The meeting held on 3 March discussed the way forward on the establishment of a radio network and the procurement procedure for satellite phones.
- The second Local ETS Working meeting was held on 2 March in Gaziantep and was also available online, as well as translated into Turkish. Representatives from the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, UN agencies, NGOs and one Mobile Network Operator (MNO) attended the meeting. The meeting discussed the way forward on coordination of ICT services for humanitarians and the affected populations.

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 is 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. An additional process was shared to assist non-accredited organizations that wish to support the ongoing emergency.

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 kilometres 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. 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

For more information or to be added or deleted from the mailing list please contact: Turkiye.ETS@wfp.org