

## Türkiye – earthquake response

### ETS Situation Report #6

Reporting period: 07/03/2023 to 13/03/2023

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

- 10 charging station units are operational in two temporary settlements in Hatay. Affected populations and the Ministry of Education (which is managing the settlement) are using the service to power communications devices for improved access to critical communications services and information.
- The ETS plans to install a further 10 charging station units in a temporary settlement in Malatya, following an assessment carried out with government authorities on 13 March. There is a need for the affected people staying in the settlement to access a safe and dedicated space to charge their communications devices.
- The ETS continues to provide support for improved access to the established connectivity at two United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) coordination sites in Hatay and Kahramanmaras. On 13 March, the ETS supported remotely to restore disrupted connectivity services in Kahramanmaras.



The ETS set up solar panels to support the charging station services for affected populations in temporary settlements in Hatay. Photo: WFP/ETS

## Situation overview

Multiple aftershocks continue to impact Türkiye. Most recently, two earthquakes of magnitude 4.7 and 4.5 occurred in Malatya on 13 March. There have been over 16,000 aftershocks across Türkiye since the 7.7 and 7.6 magnitude Kahramanmaraş earthquakes hit on 6 February 2023.<sup>1</sup>

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.

<sup>1</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/turkiye/turkiye-2023-earthquakes-situation-report-no-9-13-march-2023>

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports that over 2.7 million people have been displaced in Türkiye by the earthquake. The majority of those displaced are living in temporary settlements.<sup>2</sup>

## ETS activities

### Coordination

- On 9 March, the ETS Coordinator based in Ankara arrived in Gaziantep to continue ETS coordination activities and engage in inter-sector coordination. The ETS Coordinator previously based in Gaziantep left the operation on 10 March.
- The ETS is planning to fulfil its operational objectives for the earthquake response by the end of the Flash Appeal timeline, including for data connectivity, security communications, and services for communities.
- The ETS continues to engage in the process to identify the areas in which the sector 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 third Local ETS Working Group meeting was held on 9 March in Gaziantep and was also available online, as well as translated into Turkish. A representative from the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure attended the meeting. The meeting discussed ETS coordination and activities, as well as the needs of partners on the ground.

### Data connectivity

- The ETS continues to provide support for improved access to the established connectivity at two UNDAC coordination sites in Hatay and Kahramanmaras. On 13 March, the ETS supported remotely to restore the disrupted connectivity services in Kahramanmaras. A similar enhancement exercise will be carried out for the data connectivity services in the UNDAC site in Hatay in coordination with the Government of Luxembourg supporting the UNDAC team with back-up connectivity.
- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) confirmed there is no need to extend the internet connectivity services in New Hatay Stadium as the plan to establish 10 tents to accommodate humanitarian responders there has been phased out.

### Services for communities

- The 10 charging station units set up in two temporary settlements in Hatay are operational, with four stations powered by solar panel units while the rest of them are powered by the site power grid. The ETS installed the three solar panel units on 7 March, donated by a local company in Gaziantep. The charging stations are available for use by the affected populations in Hatay and the settlement management authorities from the

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<sup>2</sup> [https://mcusercontent.com/f168130a2468533abfcb10d45/files/203a23c2-f93c-943b-b6b9-22a9004d3f00/flash\\_NEWUPDATE\\_7March\\_R2.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/f168130a2468533abfcb10d45/files/203a23c2-f93c-943b-b6b9-22a9004d3f00/flash_NEWUPDATE_7March_R2.pdf)

Ministry of Education to power communications devices for improved access to critical communications services and information.

- The ETS received a request from the government authorities in Hatay to support the temporary settlements with a further 40 charging station units. The ETS is further assessing the needs in response to this request.
- Following a request from the government authorities in Malatya, the ETS visited a temporary settlement on 13 March to meet with the settlement management and to assess the need for charging station services. It was found that there is a need for the affected people staying in the settlement in Malatya to access a safe and dedicated space to charge their communications devices. The ETS is planning to deliver 10 charging station units to the settlement for installation as soon as possible.
- All charging stations units are mobile, to be relocated as needed.

### Security communications

- The ETS continues to engage with partners 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.
- A meeting was held with UNDSS on 8 March to discuss the procurement of a new repeater for the location which has no UHF radio network infrastructure—Malatya. UNDSS is applying for a UHF radio license for UN agencies and the ETS is ready to support the procurement of the repeater.
- Following an assessment of security communications infrastructure in Hatay on 11 March, it was found that the UHF radio repeater is no longer operational. The ETS is liaising with UNDSS to identify the issue and restore the service.
- The ETS continues to build the capacity of UN agencies to use security communications equipment in the field. The ETS is planning to deliver UHF handheld radio training to seven staff from OCHA, UNFPA, and UNDSS. So far, 34 WFP 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. An additional process was shared to assist non-accredited organizations that wish to support the ongoing emergency.

The large geographical distance between the affected regions of Türkiye impacts on the timeliness of field missions and activities. ETS staff are operating from the coordination base of Gaziantep and are required to travel long distances on a daily basis to conduct assessment and installation 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>3</sup>, 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. As of 5 March, 3G data connectivity showed network connectivity of around 85% of normal in Türkiye. This is a decrease from 90%. ITU will continue to monitor 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 21 March 2023 at 14:00 UTC**.

The next Local ETS Working Group meeting will take place online and in Gaziantep on **Wednesday 15 March 2023 at 14:00 local time**.

## Contacts

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<sup>3</sup> The DCM landing page has been orientated to the cyclones emergency in Vanuatu. To view the platform for Türkiye, select 'disaster events' and choose 'Turkey | 7.8M earthquake' from the drop-down list.

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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