

Türkiye – Syria, earthquake

Global ETC Teleconference

Date: 10/02/2023 Time: 14:00 UTC

All information related to ETC operations can be found on the website:

<https://www.etcluster.org/emergency/turkiye-syria-earthquake>

For more information or to be added or deleted from the mailing list please contact:

global.etc@wfp.org

Attendance

Chair	Brent Carbno	Italy
Action Contre la Faim (ACF)	Thomas Gerard	France
CDAC Network	FanMan Tsang	UK
CISCO	Matt Altman	USA
ERICSSON Response	Mike Duffin	Canada
	Lars Ruediger	Germany
	Lars Peder Svensson	Sweden
GSMA	Isaac Kwamy	United Kingdom
	Kimberly Brown	United Kingdom
Government of Luxembourg	Gilles Hoffmann	Luxembourg
GVF	David Meltzer	USA
IFRC	Jekel Erwin	Switzerland
ITU	Paul Hamilton	Hungary
	Lian Jiaman	Switzerland
	Vanessa Gray	Switzerland
NetHope	Charles Higgins	USA
	Ingolfur Haraldsson	Türkiye
UNHCR	Afsin Soyunmez	Türkiye
	Ekue Ayih	Ivory Coast
	Fatia Hassouni	Switzerland
	Jean-Louis De Neris Stephen	Switzerland
	Nasimolo	Syria
	Nizar Zeidan	Denmark
	Undraa Bayanaa	Denmark
UNICEF	Jeya Kumar	Ukraine
	Marc Dieng	Afghanistan
	Kamal Kamaleddine	Jordan
	Marta Dabbas	Spain
REACH	Margot Fortin	Switzerland
Save the Children	Mark Hawkins	United Kingdom

Telecom Sans Frontieres (TSF)	Florent Bervas	France
WFP	Atmaja Sembiring	Syria
	Caroline Teyssier	UAE
	Dalia Mansour	Egypt
	Gaetan Bailby	Italy
	Jennifer Lim	Belgium
	Khawar Ilyas	Türkiye
	Komi Amedjonekou	Togo
	Luis Alvarado	South Africa
	Marie Elena Bock	Italy
	Mufaro Masuka	UAE
	Niel Murphy-Dewar	Syria
	Omar Namaoui	Algeria
	Phyza Jameel	Italy
	Ria Sen	Italy
	Siriporn Charoenkijgasat	Kenya
	Waleed Salah	Türkiye
	Zeinab Sabet	Egypt

Agenda

1. Situation update
2. Emergency telecommunications updates - Türkiye
3. ETC Syria and Gaziantep update
4. Partner updates
5. AOB

Minutes

1. Situation update

- The death toll in the Türkiye and Syria earthquake disaster crossed 22,000 on 10 February. At least 19,388 people were killed and 77,711 injured in Türkiye. Syria has recorded 3,384 deaths and 5,245 injured.

2. Emergency telecommunications updates in Türkiye

- An emergency telecommunications coordinator arrived in Türkiye (Ankara) on 9 February to initiate interagency ICT coordination as well as assess needs for the interagency humanitarian community in support of the national response efforts. He is scheduled to travel to Gaziantep on 12 February.
- The emergency telecommunications coordinator is collaborating with partner humanitarian agencies on the ground to carry out needs assessments and identify gaps for intervention in the affected areas.

- No clusters have been activated at this stage in Türkiye.
- The emergency telecommunications coordinator is moving to establish an interagency ICT Working Group (IAWG). The IAWG will invite all humanitarian actors, including United Nations (UN) agencies and International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs), to exchange information and resources, and plan for a coordinated response to the Türkiye-Syria earthquake . A meeting of the existing ICT WG in Türkiye chaired by UNICEF was held on 10 February in Ankara – the emergency telecommunications coordinator approached the group regarding the creation of the IAWG and the planned ICT needs assessment for the interagency humanitarian community.
- The emergency telecommunications coordinator is drafting the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the establishment of this separate IAWG and will hold the first meeting in the coming days.
- Assessments confirmed that the most affected region is Hatay where there is extensive damage. Most agencies are focusing on ensuring the adequate mental and physical health of their staff through shelter, food, and other essential resources for the staff and their families.
- There is strong indication that OCHA will establish a coordination base in Hatay.

3. ETC Syria updates

Syria

- Data connectivity services in the interagency hub in Deir Ez-Zor again experienced temporary instability from 8 to 9 February due to another broken fibre cable. Humanitarians used the back-up VSAT connectivity link in Deir Ez-Zor during the outage while the fibre cable is being fixed. Data connectivity services remain operational in the interagency hubs in Homs, Aleppo, and Qamishli with stable ETC connectivity services backed by generators and solar power systems.
- While the interagency hubs in Aleppo and Homs are functional with data connectivity and power availability, they have been prioritized for data connectivity scale-up and strengthening following the earthquake disaster.

4. Partner updates

Ericsson

- Ericsson supply and customers service office in Türkiye is supporting the Mobile Network Operator (MNO), Turkcell, to restock their telecommunications equipment, which are depleted following continuous repair work following the earthquake disaster.

Government of Luxembourg

- The Government of Luxembourg had deployed two members of staff to Hatay. They have installed one emergency.lu terminal at the OSOCC in Adiyaman.

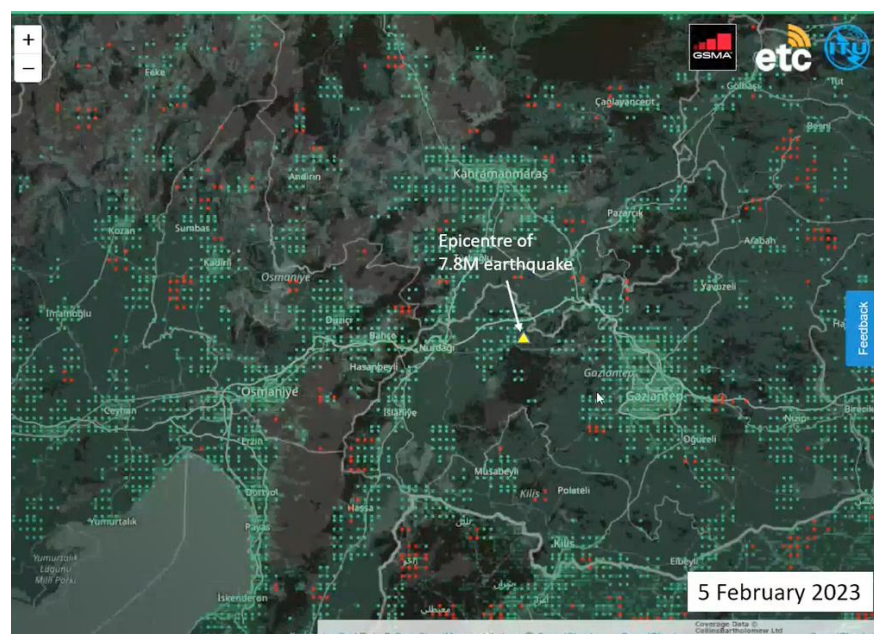
- The Government of Luxembourg is ready to assist with further data connectivity needs to other humanitarian partner agencies, if required.

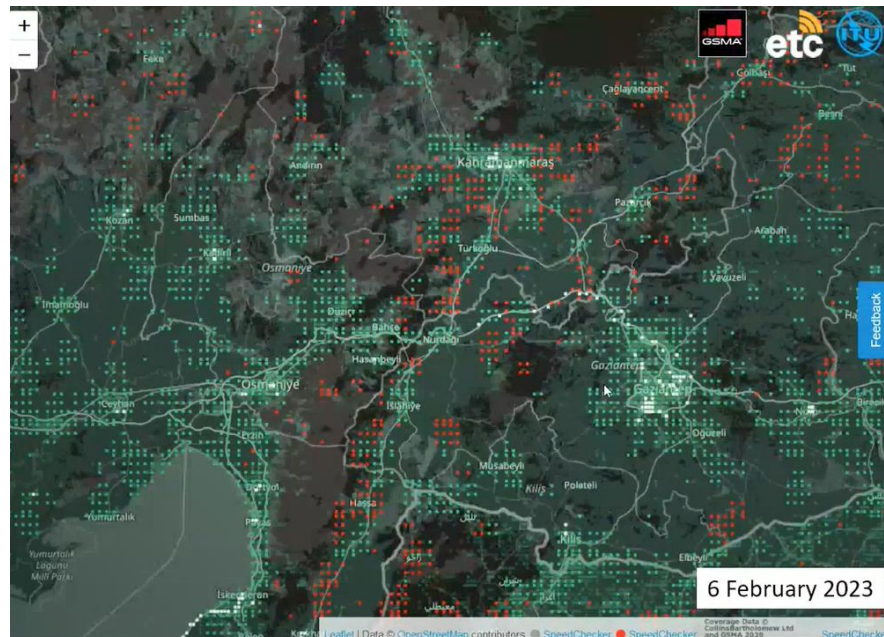
GSMA

- Turkcell is reaching out to private companies and humanitarian agencies seeking assistance in restocking their telecommunications equipment for further connectivity network repairs.

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

- The Disaster Connectivity Mapping (DCM) for Türkiye and Syria has been active since 6 February.
- ITU shared insights on the status of connectivity in earthquake affected regions of Türkiye and Syria by mapping mobile phone data connectivity points detected before and after the earthquake disaster. The DCM database continues to receive live updates of detected data connectivity points every hour.
- 205,000 datapoints have been collected within a 200 kilometre radius of the earthquake epicentre to map mobile phone data connectivity since 6 February. Two images below (one with data from 5 February and other with data from 6 February) show the variation in datapoints status. Green and white dots depict data connectivity status while red datapoints depicts connectivity outage.
- The DCM data comes from four sources: 1) Worldwide baseline, 2) Ookla (open source for global fixed broadband and mobile network performance datasets) , 3) SpeedChecker (draws data anonymously from mobile phones application) and 4) Meta (parent company of Facebook and WhatsApp). All data collected is with users' consensus.





NetHope

- The NetHope team in Türkiye deployed to Hatay province on 9 February and installed a VSAT station in collaboration with Télécoms Sans Frontières (TSF) at an Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) sub-office in Antakya.
- While travelling by road from Adana to Antakya in the Hatay province, the NetHope team noted that the data connectivity network was fluctuating and unstable on various sections of the road. Network connectivity was functional from Adana to Iskenderun city. However, there was poor network connectivity from Iskenderun to Antakya. Mobile phones show IP addresses for data connectivity but are unable to carry out data downloads.
- Fuel is available with service station operating 24 hours. There is however a high demand of fuel as people are staying in their vehicles, following loss of their homes. There is also a lot of traffic on the roads.
- NetHope is in the processing of shipping ICT equipment through the UN Humanitarian Response Depot (UNHRD) in Dubai.

Télécoms Sans Frontières (TSF)

- TSF has deployed teams in two locations: Kahramanmaraş and Antakya in Hatay province to support UNDAC and USAR teams. The teams arrive on the ground on 10 February.

- In Antakya, the government of Türkiye's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) has access to connectivity. The USAR camp has working 4G connectivity with download speeds of 20-30Mbps. The download speed at times slows down to 6Mbps. 4G works well in some locations of Hatay province around Antakya city but has poor connectivity in others. Some USAR teams still rely on BGANs. TSF continues to offer technical support to ensure continuous data connectivity.
- TSF has set up a VSAT data connectivity station at the main USAR coordination centre in Kahramanmaraş. TSF will evaluate if 4G can be used as an alternative to provide data connectivity as a back-up to the current VSAT station. Another VSAT owned by a USAR team is available but broken. TSF will evaluate if the VSAT can be repaired.
- In Adiyaman, a sub On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC) is being set up and is provided with internet connectivity via an emergencu.lu VSAT. The AFAD team in Adiyaman has functional 4G connectivity.
- In Gaziantep, reports indicate that 4G internet connectivity and landline telephones are working.
- One additional TSF team member is travelling to support with logistics in Gaziantep.
- TSF will assess the presence of service for communities platforms in the coming days in the locations of Kahramanmaraş, Adiyaman, and Antakya.

UNHCR

Syria

- UNHCR in Syria has concentrated the earthquake response to their pre-existing operations in Aleppo, Latakia, and Hama, where there are joint interventions with ETC and other agencies.
- Following the earthquake, UNHCR will establish permanent presence and operations in Tartous from 12 February.

Türkiye

- UNHCR Türkiye in the Gaziantep sub-office has two stable and functional fibre connections provided by two different private companies.
- Electricity is also available and reliable. The office has not experienced any power cuts.
- All satellite phone platforms and GSM radio are functional.

World Food Programme (WFP)

- A WFP TEC Operations Officer deployed from the WFP Regional Bureau in Cairo (RBC) and arrived in Gaziantep on 9 February. He is supporting and strengthening the WFP Türkiye Country Office (CO) response operations.

- On 11 February, the TEC Operations Officer will embark on a mission across the affected areas with the local WFP team to carry over a rapid overview assessment.

5. AOB

- There is great need to get contact details of the focal person currently coordinating humanitarian agencies Communication with Communities (CwC) in Gaziantep. UNHCR Gaziantep will assist to get the contact details.
- Partners were asked to put forward their contact details for inclusion in the Global ETC response mailing list.

The next teleconference meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 February 2023 at 14:00 UTC

14:00 UTC
15:00 Rome
16:00 Cairo
17:00 Damascus/Istanbul
18:00 Dubai

Acronyms

AFAD	Government of Türkiye Disaster and Emergency Management Authority
DCM	Disaster Connectivity Mapping
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
CO	Country Office
CwC	Communication with Communities
HF	High Frequency
ICT	Information Communication Technology
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance
OSOCC	On-Site Operations Coordination Centre
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNDAC	United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
USAR	Urban Search and Rescue
WG	Working Group
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal

Minutes: Mufaro Masuka, ETC Information Management Officer