Türkiye – Syria, earthquake

Global ETC Teleconference

Date: 14/02/2023 **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
CDAC Network	FanMan Tsang	UK
CISCO	Matt Altman	USA
ERICSSON Response	Mike Duffin	Canada
	Lars Ruediger	Germany
GSMA	Kimberly Brown	United Kingdom
IFRC	Jekel Erwin	Switzerland
ITU	Paul Hamilton	Hungary
	Jiaman Lian	Switzerland
NetHope	Charles Higgins	USA
	Ingolfur Haraldsson	Türkiye
UNHCR	Afsin Soyunmez	Türkiye
UNICEF	Jeya Kumar	Ukraine
	Marc Dieng	Afghanistan
	Kamal Kamaleddine	Jordan
TSF	Marta Moreton	Türkiye
WFP	Atmaja Sembiring	Syria
	Caroline Teyssier	UAE
	Diana Klein	Italy
	Khawar Ilyas	Türkiye
	Komi Amedjonekou	Togo
	Luis Alvarado	South Africa
	Mufaro Masuka	UAE
	Neil Murphy-Dewar	Syria
	Omar Namaoui	Türkiye Italy
	Phyza Jameel	Kenya
	Siriporn Charoenkijgasat	

Agenda

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

Minutes

1. Situation update

- Gaziantep residents were seen coming back into parts of the city.

- Humanitarian agencies are setting up temporary operational base camps in Gaziantep.

2. Emergency telecommunications updates in Turkiye

- A TEC emergency coordinator arrived in Gaziantep on 12 February to initiate interagency ICT coordination as well as needs assessments for the interagency humanitarian community in support of the national response efforts.

- The cluster system has not been activated at this stage in Türkiye.

- Besides supporting affected populations, there is a common advisory agreed at the Security Management Team (SMT) level to temporary move UN staff to safe locations.

- The TEC emergency coordinator in collaboration with partner humanitarian agencies have assessed and identify the gaps for intervention in the affected areas, especially in strengthening common services.

- While voice and data connectivity from national service providers is functional, agency teams undertaking field visits are also carrying back-up communications equipment such as satellite phones. Locations facing fluctuating network connectivity are Reyhanli and Antakya.

- There are also power challenges in parts of Hatay and Kahramanmaraş provinces. Most Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) in these provinces are running on generator power. The situation is being monitored.

- WFP, as the global lead agency for emergency telecommunications, has mobilized resources to support the initial interagency response through deployment of key staff members responsible for security communications and coordination.

- UNDSS is leading and managing the field safety and security of all interagency staff from Ankara and Gaziantep. With the expected surge in the number of humanitarian staff, UNDSS will also require additional staff and supporting equipment, which is

currently stretched. Security communications training will be coordinated under the Inter Agency Telecommunication Working Group (IATWG). The WFP telecom specialist mobilized to support the security communications, will also be expected to provide users training on radio communications.

- The TEC emergency coordinator is moving to establish the IATWG. The IATWG will invite all humanitarian actors, including UN agencies and International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs), to exchange information and resources, and plan for a coordinated response to the Türkiye-Syria earthquake. The ICT IAWG will operate under guidance of Terms of Reference (ToRs) currently being developed. WFP will take the lead in coordination of the IATWG. The first IATWG is tentatively scheduled for 16 February.

- Omar Namaoui was officially mobilized from Ankara on 14 February to support the Türkiye response as ICT intergency coordinator. He is traveling to Gaziantep on 15 February.
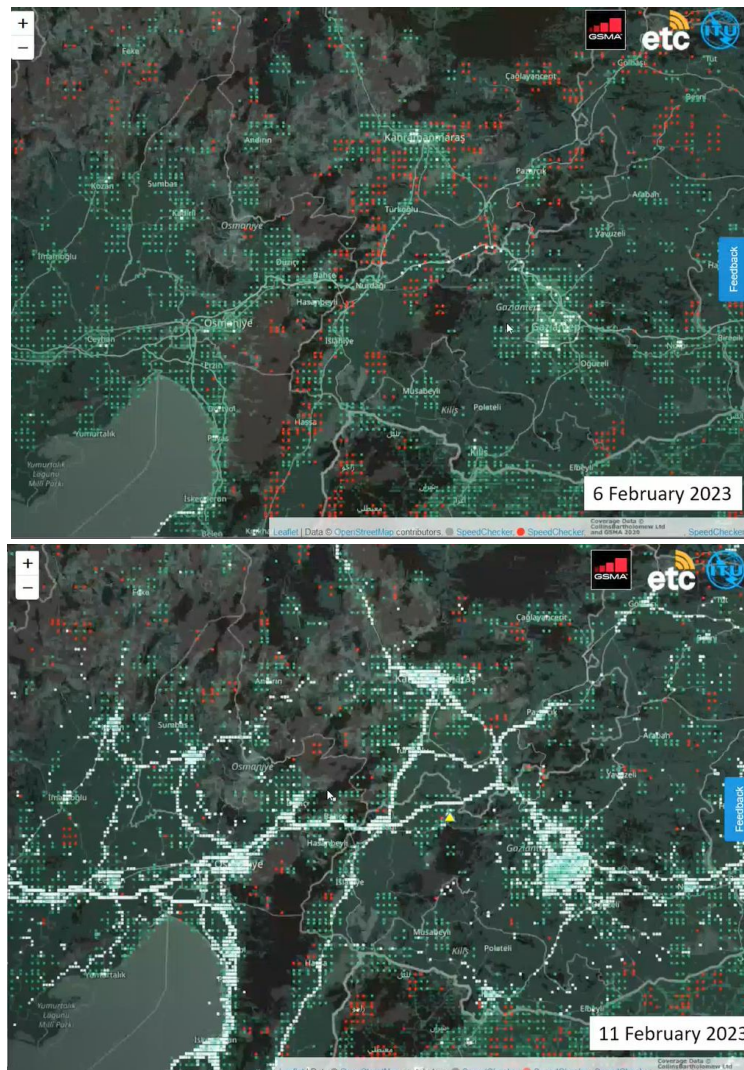
3. ETC Syria updates

Syria

- Data connectivity and security communications services remain operational in the interagency hubs in Homs, Aleppo, and Qamishli with stable ETC connectivity services backed by generators and solar power systems.

- An ICT officer from the WFP Syria Country Office (CO) deployed for one month on 13 February to support the Syria field offices based on the Türkiye side of the border. He will be based in Mersin, Turkiye as of 14 February. The staff member is trained in VHF radio, security communications, and VSAT connectivity services.

4. Partner updates

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

- The Disaster Connectivity Map (DCM) for Türkiye and Syria has been active since 6 February. The earthquake resulted in a fall of mobile data connectivity to 80% of the normal status.

- ITU insights show an improvement in spatial spread of restored connectivity in the earthquake affected regions of Türkiye and Syria. By 11 February, 3G data connectivity had been restored to 90% of normal (green and white dots).

6 February 2023

11 February 2023

- Pockets of connectivity loss are still evident (red dots).

NetHope

- The NetHope teams are operating in collaboration with a local partner and are present in Kahramanmaraş and Hatay provinces.

- Electricity shortages and fluctuating mobile data connectivity services are being experienced in Kahramanmaraş and Hatay provinces. The fuel supply is improving.

Télécoms Sans Frontières (TSF)

- TSF teams deployed in Kahramanmaraş and Hatay provinces continue to support UNDAC and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams. The teams arrived on the ground on 10 February.

- Voice calls and 4G data connectivity was restored in Hatay and Malatya a few days after the earthquake.

- Local telecommunications operators are working with Türkiye's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) to restore connectivity in all the affected areas**.** Approximately 200 mobile base stations have been installed in the provinces of Kahramanmaraş and Hatay to compensate for unusable base stations destroyed during the earthquake disaster.

- According to information on the ground, urban search and rescue missions are nearing completion.

- Approximately 3,500 power generators were deployed for both Kahramanmaraş and Hatay provinces to alleviate power challenges. A fuel supply is available.

UNHCR

Türkiye

- The Head of ICT from UNHCR Türkiye visited the Urfa and Hatay offices after 10 February. In Urfa, voice calls, data connectivity, and satellite phone connections are all functional. There is no electricity power in Hatay, as infrastructure was destroyed during the earthquake. The quality and connection of voice calls is poor, especially in the city centre. Satellite phone connection is functional.

Government of Luxembourg[1]

- The Government of Luxembourg team on the ground in Türkiye installed a Ground Air Transmit Receive (GATR) VSAT terminal at the Belgian Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) site to support the response in Kırıkhan, Hatay province. This is in addition to the Ku-Band VSAT installed at the Sub- On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC) in Hatay. Another Ku-band VSAT terminal is planned to be shipped on 15 February to replace the GATR.

5. AOB

- ITU are able to facilitate links to Thuraya for any partner that needs their products. Lian Jiaman can be contacted at jiaman.lian@itu.int for further assistance.

The next teleconference meeting will be held on 21 February 2023 at 14:00 UTC

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

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[1] Inputs provided offline.

Acronyms

AFAD	Government of Türkiye Disaster and Emergency Management Authority
DCM	Disaster Connectivity Mapping
EMT	Emergency Medical Technicians
ETC	Emergency Telecommunications Cluster
CO	Country Office
GATR	Ground Air Transmit Receive
IATWG	Inter Agency Telecommunication Working Group
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

Minutes: Mufaro Masuka, ETC Information Management Officer