

Türkiye – Syria, earthquake

Global ETC Teleconference #4

Date: 21/02/2023 Time: 14:00 UTC

All information related to ETC operations 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:

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Attendance

Chair	Brent Carbno	Italy
CDAC Network	FanMan Tsang	UK
CISCO	Eric Knudson	USA
	Matt Wood	USA
Ericsson Response	Mike Duffin	Canada
	Lars Ruediger	Germany
Government of USA	Joseph Burton	USA
GSMA	Bryce David Hartley	United Kingdom
	Isaac Kwamy	United Kingdom
Government of Luxembourg	Raoul Thill	Luxembourg
	Sylvain Ogier	Luxembourg
	Luc Hastir	Luxembourg
ICRC	Mario Salazar Aguas	Switzerland
IFRC	Jekel Erwin	Switzerland
ITU	Jiaman Lian	Switzerland
	Paul Hamilton	Hungary
	Vanessa Gray	Switzerland
NetHope	Charles Higgins	USA
	Ingolfur Haraldsson	Türkiye
IFRC	Mauricio Castano	Switzerland
UNHCR	Afsin Soyunmez	Türkiye
	Alexander Thomas	Denmark
	Ekue Ayih	Ivory Coast
	Massoumeh Farman Farmaian	Denmark
	Nizar Zeidan Kansou	Denmark
	Shashikant Dhanteja	Jordan
	Undraa Bayanaa	Denmark
	Stephen Nasimolo	Syria
UNICEF	Marc Dieng	Jordan
	Marta Dabbas	Spain

WFP	Mazen Shwikany	Syria
	Atmaja Sembiring	Syria
	Aramais Alojants	UAE
	Caroline Teyssier	Türkiye
	Damian Stafford-Shaw	Ireland
	Dalia Mansour	Egypt
	Elizabeth Millership	UAE
	Jay Mahanand	Italy
	Jennifer Lim	Italy
	Khawar Ilyas	Türkiye
	Komi Amedjonekou	Italy
	Luis Alvarado	South Africa
	Maria Gonzalez Garcia	Italy
	Marie Elena Block	Italy
	Mufaro Masuka	UAE
	Neil Murphy-Dewar	Syria
	Phyza Jameel	Italy
	Siriporn Charoenkijgasat	Egypt

Agenda

1. Situation update
2. Emergency Telecommunications Sector (ETS) Türkiye updates
3. ETC Syria updates
4. Partner updates
5. AOB

Minutes

1. Situation update

- A 6.4 magnitude earthquake struck southern Türkiye on 20 February killing six, injuring approximately 300 people and destroying some buildings. No major telecommunications operational impact was reported by the partners.

2. ETS Türkiye updates

- A Türkiye Earthquake Flash Appeal was launched on 16 February to support government relief efforts for an initial three months. WFP was identified to support the government of Türkiye with humanitarian inter-agency ICT activities, referred as 'ETS response'. ETS is appealing for US\$1 million to coordinate ICT activities and provide security communications, internet connectivity, customer support, capacity building, and services for communities.
- US\$150,000 was requested to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

- There is no formal cluster or sector activation approach in Türkiye and all ETS efforts in the country are in support of the government-led response. All humanitarian agencies are working in collaboration with the Government of Türkiye Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD).
- On 20 February, Caroline Teyssier deployed as the second ETS Coordinator to support the inter-sector coordination in Ankara. The coordination cell in Ankara is expected to phase out on 1 March and all activities will be carried out from Gaziantep.
- To ensure visibility, communications and reporting, a dedicated Information Management Officer (Elizabeth Millership) will join the ETS in Gaziantep on 22 February.
- The second Inter Agency Telecommunications Working Group (IATWG) meeting will be held on 23 February. The ETS Coordinator based in Gaziantep (Omar Namaoui) will chair the meeting. These meetings are being transitioned to Local ETS Working Group meetings.
- The ETS in Türkiye will support the scale-up of humanitarian agencies' operations in the region and also offer services to the affected population who are currently sheltered in temporary settlements.
- On 17 February, the ETS Gaziantep coordinator conducted a joint assessment mission to Hatay with WFP TEC to meet with local actors and identify gaps for common ICT services. A second mission to Hatay was conducted on 19 February to assess the requirements for charging station services for communities there. The ETS is taking forward the discussions on services for communities with partners, including AFAD and the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED). The ETS is looking at local suppliers for the initial purchase of required equipment for the charging station services.
- Four humanitarian hubs are being planned to be established in Kahramanmaraş, Hatay, Adiyaman, and Malatya. The ETS is ready to provide joint common services such as data connectivity, secure radio communications, and power in the hubs. The hub locations may change in line with operational needs.
- On 19 February, the ETS assessed the status of the UHF radio repeater and equipment located in the WFP office in Gaziantep, as well as the UNDSS Security Operations Centre (SOC) equipment also located in the WFP office, to identify any damage to the interagency security communications systems caused by the earthquake. It was found the antenna needs adjustment, and the repeater requires upgrading. Meanwhile, the SOC operations have temporarily been moved to an OCHA building following the earthquake and remain operational.
- Further assessment of the radio repeaters in all the impacted areas is needed to strengthen security communications across the impacted regions. ETS is working with UNDSS, in charge of the radio communication network in Türkiye.
- All sectors will only engage with NGOs which are accredited by the Government of Türkiye.

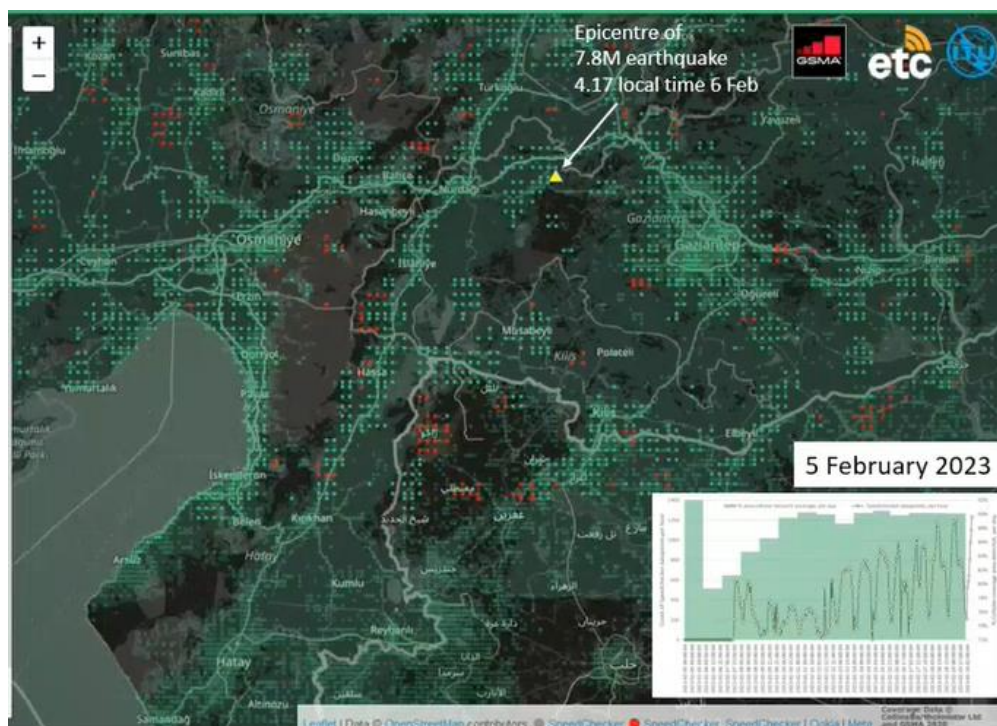
ETC Syria updates

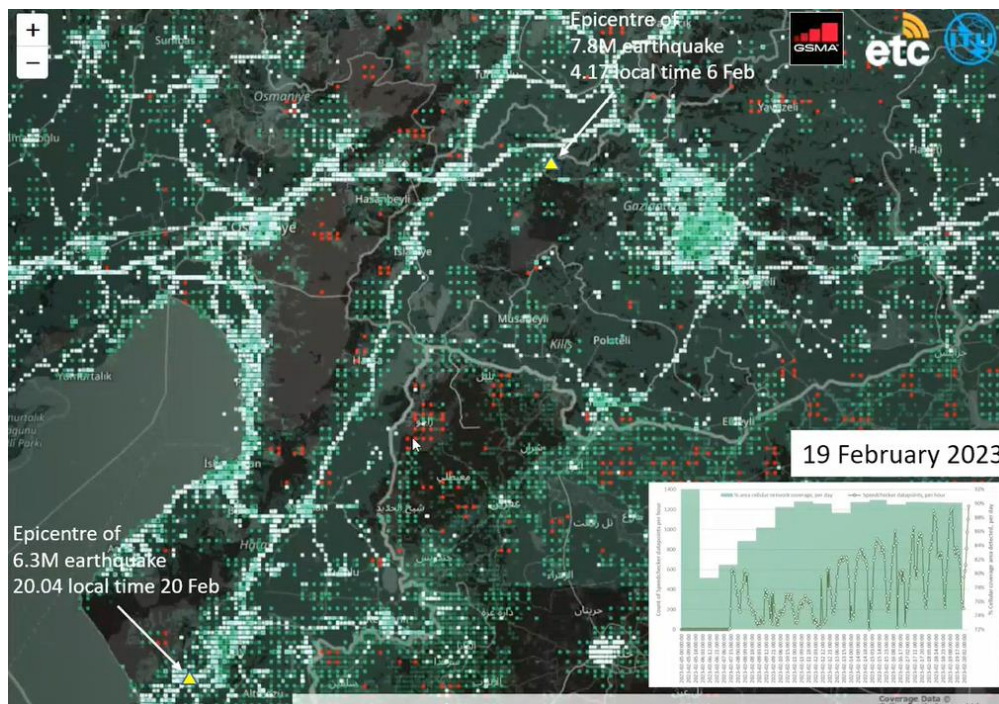
- Data connectivity and security communications services remain operational in the interagency hubs in Homs, Aleppo, and Qamishli with stable ETC connectivity services backed by generators and solar power systems. All hubs are also supported by the UNDSS SOCs.
- The ETC in Syria has reached out to all partners to assess if there is need for extra service capacity in the UN hubs. The current set-up will be able to cope with any additional needs that may arise.

3. Partner updates

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

- The Disaster Connectivity Map (DCM) for Türkiye and Syria has been active since 6 February. Over 350,000 data points have been received between 6 and 19 February. Green dots show detection of mobile network coverage while red dots denotes undetected coverage. By 11 February, 3G data connectivity had been restored to 90% of normal (green and white dots) in Türkiye.
- Following the 6.3 magnitude aftershock that struck near Antakya on 20 February, the ITU will monitor effects on mobile network coverage and connectivity.
- ITU insights show a drop of public network coverage in Syria to 76% by 9 February (three days after the earthquake). By 13 February network coverage had dropped to 40%, before rising to the current 55% coverage by 19 February.





Cisco Crisis Response (CCR)

- The CCR team arrived in Türkiye on 19 February and immediately deployed to Kahramanmaraş. Cisco is working in collaboration with NetHope to support the installation of WiFi hotspots.

NetHope

- NetHope is working as a joint team with the Cisco Crisis Response. NetHope will move its operational office to Gaziantep by 23 February.
- NetHope is available to offer assistance in other areas where other partners are operating.

UNICEF

Syria

- UNICEF has opened a new field office in Latakia.
- UNICEF has received an exceptional approval from the authorities to install Starlink connectivity. However, UNICEF is still seeking Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) approval to import the Starlink equipment.

Türkiye

- UNICEF has a field operational hub in Gaziantep to support both Türkiye and northeast Syria operations. There is a regional hub in Istanbul which supports the Gaziantep field operational hub.

- One network connectivity link was temporarily down in Gaziantep but has since been repaired and is now fully operational.
- UNICEF intends to scale up operations in Gaziantep in response to the needs of the affected population.
- UNICEF is working to implement a digital-based solutions approach in their interventions to deliver services to the affected population.

4. AOB

- VSAT licences' renewals for all agencies in Syria have been pending for over a year. MoFA has sped up renewing licenses since the 6 February earthquake disaster.

The next teleconference meeting will be held on 28 February 2023 at 14:00 UTC

15:00 Rome

16:00 Cairo

17:00 Damascus/Istanbul

18:00 Dubai

Acronyms

ACTED	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
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