



Mapping the communication and coordination networks in response to the Kahramanmaraş Earthquakes, Türkiye, 6 February 2023

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Kahramanmaras Province

Kahramanmaras Province Center

- Communication was down after the earthquake occurred.
- GSM phones did not work since GSM base stations were collapsed.
- The city center was out of electricity which also affected communication devices.
- Officials used satellite phones to coordinate operations. But only a few officials and rescue members were able to use these phones.
- The Elbistan district earthquake, which happened in the north of first earthquake, worsen the situation.



Pazarcik, the Center of the First Earthquake:

- Although Pazarcik was the center of the first earthquake, most of the building were standing with moderate and heavy damage.
- Communication was down, but restored after the first day.
- They were able to restore electricity after the first day.
- After restoring electricity, with the help of mobile GSM cars, they activated the Internet.
- They used the Internet signal to spot people in the villages.
- After the second day, they were able to send assistance to the villages via helicopters.



Hatay Province and Its Districts,

Samandagi and Defne:

- The province center, Antakya, and the districts were heavily damaged (almost gone).
- Communication was down for several days (Some places for 3 days, some for more days).
- No electricity for several days.
- Traffic was jammed because of collapsed buildings and people rushing in and out of city.
- Airport was not usable because of damage.
- For some districts and villages, it took almost a week to reach for search and rescue.
- Coordination was a huge problem, specially for the first 3 days.



Golbasi District, (Adiyaman Province)

- The city center was heavily damaged.
- Half of the city center was still out of electricity when we visited.
- The Municipality, the District Government and Social Services buildings were totally collapsed.
- Some schools were totally collapsed, and most of them were not safe for education even though they stand.
- They built tent-schools specially for children of 8 and 12 grades. They had a big trauma-play-tent for children.
- Communication was down for about 2 days. After that some GSM operators started to work. Mobile GSM trucks came for help.
- Coordination was a big problem for 2-3 days. They were not able to reach villages.



General Evaluation

- The Earthquakes affected 10 cities and approximately 13 million people.
- However, Kahramanmaras, Hatay, Adiyaman Province and two districts of Gaziantep (Nurdagi and Islahiye) were heavily damaged.
- For the most parts of these locations, there was no electricity, no gas, limited communication and limited transportation ability of both people and organizations.
- Lack of communication for the first days of earthquakes (depending on the location) created coordination problems.
- People and rescue teams usually use cell phones. Since the base stations of GSM operators are constructed over the buildings, they were mostly down.
- Mobile GSM cars started to reach the fields after 2-3 days.
- Local administrators were not able to coordinate search and rescue operations. Many province and district governors came from different cities and took responsibility of all operations.

