

UPU Emergency and Solidarity Fund response report – supporting Turkish PTT Corporation following the 2023 earthquake in Türkiye

In February 2023, south-eastern Türkiye was struck by a catastrophic 7.8-magnitude earthquake, followed by multiple aftershocks. The disaster resulted in significant human loss, with 912 fatalities and over 5,385 injuries reported. Thousands of buildings, including postal facilities, were severely damaged or destroyed, disrupting critical infrastructure and postal services.

UPU Emergency and Solidarity Fund responds

In response to Türkiye Post's urgent needs, the UPU activated its Emergency and Solidarity Fund – a dedicated mechanism designed to provide rapid and coordinated assistance to postal operators affected by emergencies. The disaster risk management team at the UPU International Bureau quickly facilitated communication between Turkish PTT Corporation and international postal stakeholders to organize support.

A call for assistance was issued to the global postal community, seeking financial contributions to aid in the procurement of the emergency equipment necessary for recovery efforts.

Global solidarity in action: support from Japan and the United States of America

Demonstrating strong international solidarity, Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), Japan Post and the United States Postal Service (USPS) collectively donated 52,600 CHF. This funding was specifically allocated for the procurement of essential emergency equipment, which was critical for restoring postal operations and supporting relief efforts in the affected regions.

Conclusion

The 2023 earthquake in Türkiye posed enormous challenges to postal infrastructure and service continuity. Thanks to the rapid activation of the UPU Emergency and Solidarity Fund and the generous support from Japan's MIC, Japan Post and USPS, Turkish PTT Corporation was able to obtain vital equipment that helped restore services in the hardest-hit areas. This collaboration underscores the importance of global postal solidarity in responding to emergencies and supporting affected communities.