

TSF Response to Venezuelan Earthquakes – June-July 2026

Main highlights

On June 24, 2026, north-central Venezuela was struck by a catastrophic doublet earthquake—a magnitude 7.2 foreshock followed just 39 seconds later by a massive 7.5 mainshock.

Thousands of people are reported dead or missing. Telecommunications infrastructure has sustained significant damage, and communications remain largely unavailable in some affected areas, particularly in the La Guaira region.

INITIAL ASSESSEMENTS AND RESPONSE

Following the earthquakes affecting Venezuela, Telecoms Sans Frontieres deployed an emergency telecommunications response team starting 27 June 2026. Operations are focused on **providing connectivity solutions in affected areas including La Guaira, Caraballeda, and Caracas, with coordination led through the Venezuelan Red Cross.**

Initial assessments indicated critical **connectivity gaps at field hospitals, mobile response units, and temporary settlements housing displaced populations, especially in La Guaira region.** These constraints affect security communications, information management, beneficiary services, and overall operational effectiveness of humanitarian partners.

TSF ACTIVITIES (27 June - 01 July 2026)

Fixed Connectivity Points

At the **La Guaira Field Hospital**, TSF deployed networking equipment using an existing LEO satellite terminal and configured a dual SSID architecture. This established separate administrative and staff networks supporting medical operations coordination.

At the **Campo de Golf in Caraballeda**, TSF installed connectivity using a LEO satellite terminal plus a High-Density Wi-Fi distribution kit. The installation supported peak concurrent connections of 71 devices, sustaining approximately 50 beneficiaries simultaneously through Red Cross Restoring Family Links services.



Connectivity for Mobile Teams

TSF has equipped one **mobile rescue vehicle with a LEO satellite terminal and inverter** for staff security and communication during field operations.

Multiple **satellite phone units were loaned to motorcycle-based assessment teams and Restoring Family Links mobile units** for secure communications. **A complete networking package was handed over to the Red Cross Restoring Family Links team at Campo de Golf**, including routing and High-Density Wi-Fi distribution hardware.

Capacity Building and Training

Technical documentation on disaster-response networking configurations was provided to partner organizations.

Hands-on training sessions were conducted for Red Cross focal points on equipment operation and troubleshooting, with additional field training scheduled to reinforce learning at the service deployment location.

Partner Coordination

Primary collaboration continues with the Venezuelan Red Cross as the main partner. TSF coordinated with the **ICRC and Colombian Red Cross on joint planning for population-level connectivity provisioning**. An exploratory partnership was established with **Project Hope to evaluate connectivity support for three mobile medical units** covering three states.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

During the response period, SpaceX announced delivery of 600 Starlink terminals distributed directly to approximately fifty-five organizations working in Venezuela, including the Red Cross Restoring Family Links program. As a result, initial Red Cross connectivity needs have been substantially met through this direct provision.

TSF has reoriented remaining capacity toward other priority areas where gaps persist. Bilateral agreements were established to redirect available TSF resources to partners such as Project Hope who lack embedded connectivity capacity.

CONTACTS

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