



WFP Turkey Country Brief June 2018



Operational Context

Turkey currently hosts the highest number of refugees in the world: 3.95 million people, of which 3.5 million are from Syria. Only 216,000 refugees reside in camps located in the south-east, while the majority live in cities and villages throughout the country. The Government of Turkey has demonstrated leadership and generosity in providing for the needs of these populations. Since June 2011, a temporary protection regime has granted Syrians access to basic services such as healthcare and education. Refugees of other nationalities can benefit from an International Protection status.

WFP re-established a presence in Turkey in 2012, in response to the crisis in Syria. WFP Turkey's Transitional Interim Country Strategy Plan builds on WFP's partnership with the Government of Turkey and other stakeholders to safeguard the basic needs of the refugees in Turkey, ensuring no vulnerable refugee is left behind.



Population: **79.5 million**

Income Level: **Upper Middle**

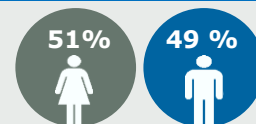
In Numbers

USD 36.3 m distributed in multi-purpose cash

USD 1.57 m distributed through value vouchers

Shortfall: USD 5 m required until December 2018

1.5 m people assisted
In June 2018



Operational Updates

- WFP, in partnership with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC/Kızılay) and the Turkish Government, with funding from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), continued to deliver aid through the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN), the world's largest humanitarian multi-purpose cash programme.
- In June, the ESSN assisted 1.36 million vulnerable refugees across Turkey, providing each person with 120 Turkish Liras (USD 26) to help cover basic needs. Since the start of ESSN implementation, 2.16 million refugees have submitted applications, of which 60 percent met the eligibility criteria.
- WFP Turkey and TRC accompanied delegations from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and ECHO in visits to ESSN-assisted households, Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations (SASFs) and TRC Service Centres in Antakya (Hatay). SIDA and ECHO, both stakeholders of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey (FRIT), observed the implementation of ESSN activities, as well as its positive impact on assisted people.
- WFP and TRC continue to work closely with the Ministry of Family and Social Policies to introduce top-ups for severely disabled households and an allowance for SASFs allowing very vulnerable households not meeting the demographic criteria onto the programme. Regional trainings of SASF staff are set to begin in July, covering a variety of updates related to ESSN.
- Analysis has shown that funds transferred to ESSN beneficiaries up to May have been almost fully utilised. This indicates a significant injection of funds into the local economy. Since 2012, WFP has injected USD 768 million into the Turkish economy through cash-based transfers.
- WFP continues its support to 141,000 refugees in ten camps across the southeast of Turkey, with an e-voucher worth 50 Turkish Liras (USD 11) provided to each person every month to buy food in participating shops. The Turkish government provides an additional 50 TL on a separate card, for food and non-food items.

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Deniz Akkus
Caption: Refugees in Gaziantep filing applications for ESSN Assistance.

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WFP Country Strategy

Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Months (July-December) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
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Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (January – December 2018)

737.3 m	825.5 m	5 m*
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* The shortfall affects in-camp assistance, the ESSN program is funded until January 2019. Out of the total USD 825.5 m confirmed contributions of the Turkey TICSP, USD 731 m will be used in 2018 and the remaining funding in 2019.

WFP Country Activities

SO 1 Provide technical advice to and strengthening of national institutions and NGO partners.

Provide technical assistance to Government and NGO partners in order to transfer resources to refugees in Turkish communities.

Provide technical assistance to Government and NGO partners in order to transfer resources to refugees living in camps in Turkey

Monitoring

- Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) conducted in May, with results published in June, investigated refugees' experiences related to the ESSN selection and reassessment processes. The questionnaire for the month was comprised of four sections; 1) ESSN selection process; 2) Application of selection criteria; 3) Household visits; 4) Monthly reassessment. Almost all FGD participants stated that their ESSN applications went through smoothly. The majority of participants did not report any errors in their ESSN applications at the SASF offices. Most participants were informed about the purpose of the SASF households visits at the time of their application. Most participants' households had already been visited by the SASFs and did not experience any issue or feel uncomfortable during visits. Many participants stated they were not informed about the monthly reassessment process at the time of their application, however most participants approve the monthly reassessment, as they believe it helps to allocate assistance to more vulnerable families. Almost all participants stated that one or two month's warning would be beneficial to families before cutting off assistance, giving them time to adjust their budgets.
- ESSN Post-Distribution Monitoring data collected between November 2017 and January 2018 shows an increase in regular school attendance for households receiving both Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE) assistance and ESSN assistance.

Challenges

- To ensure that most vulnerable refugees can apply to the ESSN, WFP is working closely with ESSN partners to address specific barriers such as DGMM registration, address registration and access to disability health reports.

Partnerships

- WFP and TRC collaborate at the country and field levels together with Turkish authorities, including the Ministry of Family and Social Policies (MoFSP), the Ministry of Interior's Directorates General of Migration Management (DGMM) and Population and Citizenship Affairs (DGPC), the Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), the Prime Minister's Undersecretary Office (PMO), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations (SASF), as well as Provincial and District Governors' offices. Several agencies participate in the ESSN Governing Board, co-chaired by AFAD and ECHO.
- An ESSN Task Force co-chaired by WFP and TRC ensures external coordination with UN agencies and NGOs. This helps maximise coverage and reduce duplications in assistance.

Communications with Refugees

- The ESSN programme relies on a clear and simple messaging network that can be easily accessed and understood by refugees who speak many languages and have varying literacy levels. ESSN communication channels include social media, SMS's, printed materials in five languages, 23 call centre operators in six languages and a website. By the end of May, the figures were eloquent:
 - Call Centre: 692,607 calls received
 - Facebook: 71,681 followers
 - Facebook questions and complaints answered: 26,466
 - Website clicks: 59,487
 - Number of SMSs sent: 2.5 million
- The ESSN website offers tracking numbers for messages logged on the system to enable increased accountability on part of ESSN feedback and complaints mechanisms, and enable individuals to follow up on their case with this number.

Caption from the ESSN Facebook page:

[facebook.com/Kizilaykart.SUY](https://www.facebook.com/Kizilaykart.SUY)



Donors

Australia, Denmark, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), France, Germany, Hainan Airlines Group, Japan, Kuwait, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Norway, USAID