



World Food Programme

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WFP Turkey Country Brief

September 2018



Operational Context

Turkey currently hosts the highest number of refugees in the world: 3.9 million people, of which 3.5 million are from Syria. Only 176,000 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 Syria crisis. 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**

2017 Human Development Index: **71 out of 188** (0.767)

Income Level: **Upper middle**

Poverty Rate: **28.7 per cent** living below the national poverty line (TLIK)

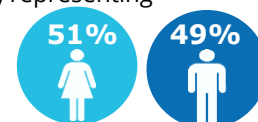
In Numbers

1.54 m people assisted in September

US\$ 25.8 m distributed in multi-purpose cash in September

US\$ 1.31 m distributed through value vouchers in September

US\$ 8.8 m six months (October 2018 – March 2019) net funding requirements, representing 1% of total



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 Assistance Operations (ECHO), continued to deliver aid through the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN), the world's largest humanitarian multi-purpose cash programme.
- In September, the ESSN assisted 1,427,503 million vulnerable refugees across Turkey, providing each person with 120 Turkish Liras (USD 20) to help cover their essential needs. So far, 2.7 million refugees have submitted applications, of which 54 percent met the eligibility criteria.
- On 30 September, the monthly "severe disability top-up" payment of 600 Turkish Liras (USD 100 per person) was made to 4,289 ESSN beneficiaries. The ESSN programme shared information with affected populations via the official webpage, Facebook page, call centre and SMS about the top-up and Disability Health Reports (DHR), reminding them to renew their DHR starting from three months before the expiry date.
- WFP continues its support to 119,330 refugees in camps across the southeast of Turkey, with a monthly e-voucher worth 50 Turkish lira (USD 8.3) provided to each person to buy food in participating shops. The Turkish government provides an additional 50 TL on a separate card for food and non-food items. The number of camp residents decreased in September 2018, mainly due to the closure of some camps, which has resulted in many camp residents resettling in nearby cities.

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Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018)

Total Requirement (in USD) *	Allocated Contributions (in USD) **	Six Months (October 2018- March 2019) Net Funding Requirements (in USD) ***
738.6 m	826.7 m	8.8 m

*Total requirement: for 2018 only. **Allocated contributions are confirmed contributions and multilateral allocations beyond 2018. ***The shortfall affects in-camp assistance, the ESSN program is funded at least until January 2019.

Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

Strategic Outcome #1: All eligible refugees in Turkey have access to a safety net addressing their basic needs until a safe return is possible.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- 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.
- Provide technical assistance to Government, academia and NGO partners in vocational training and livelihood creation for refugees in Turkey (category 10; modality CBT)

Monitoring

- In September, ESSN Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) investigated refugee perspectives on vocational training and other assistance linked to employment. The majority reported working just in informal jobs, mainly due to the language barrier at the formal level. According to participants, programmes assisting them to find jobs would be more valuable in cities with denser refugee populations. Participation rates for vocational training would depend heavily on guarantees of work opportunities upon graduation.
- WFP Regional Bureau in Cairo published a [report](#) based on over 50,000 household surveys collected over 2015-2017 in the five countries responding to the Syria refugee crisis. By providing regular food assistance to Syrian refugees every month, WFP succeeded in ensuring food consumption is stable and beneficiaries are able to maintain higher food consumption than the baseline every quarter. Assisted male and female headed households are more likely to have equal food consumption and similar use of coping strategies, while non-assisted female households were more likely to have lower food consumption and more often use coping strategies than males.
- Analysis from July to September 2018 ESSN Post-Distribution Monitoring shows significant improvements for assisted households when compared to the baseline (May 2017). However, ESSN-assisted households have increased their

use of livelihood coping strategies since April 2018. The average amount of debt has also increased. While there may be other factors contributing to these results, the main reason is likely to be the rapidly rising inflation rate and the devaluation of Turkish lira, which diminishes the purchasing power for Turks and refugees alike.

- The Turkish annual inflation rate increased to 15.9% in July and 17.9% in August 2018. The estimated basic cost of living for a refugee has increased from 295TL in June 2018 to 305.8 TL per person per month.

Partnerships

- WFP and TRC collaborate at the country and field levels with Turkish authorities, including the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, DGMM, the Ministry of Interior's Directorates General of Population and Citizenship Affairs and of Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations, as well as Provincial and District Governors' offices. Several agencies participate in the ESSN Governing Board, co-chaired by the Government of Turkey and ECHO.
- An ESSN Task Force co-chaired by WFP and TRC ensures external coordination with UN agencies and NGOs. This helps maximise coverage of services for vulnerable refugees and reduce duplications in assistance.

Story worth telling

- A few ESSN-assisted people started receiving training in artistic techniques, including patchwork, lino print and serigraphy. Their art will be used as a vehicle to raise awareness about the ESSN programme.
- A campaign to raise awareness among EU citizens on ESSN assistance created pop-up shops in Paris, Milan, Warsaw, Berlin and Amsterdam. At "The Incredible Ordinary" shops [memorable videos](#) of eight Syrian families assisted by the ESSN card programme in Turkey explain to journalists and the public how a particular product helped them restore normality to their lives. Watch [here](#) an ANSA interview on the pop-up shop in Milan.
- Read on insight.wfp.org how Ahmed's family in Adana camp is using the e-food card programme.

"Now we are free to choose what we want to eat every day" - Ahmed.



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