



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Turkey Country Brief October 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 178,000 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**

2018 Human Development Index: **64 out of 188** (0.767)

Income Level: **Upper middle**

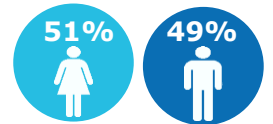
Poverty Rate: **28.7 per cent** living below the national poverty line (TUIK)

In Numbers

1.56 m people assisted in October

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

US\$ 0.95 m distributed through value vouchers in October



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 October, the ESSN assisted 1,447,841 million vulnerable refugees across Turkey, providing each person with TRY 120 (USD 21.5) to help cover their essential needs. The monthly "severe disability top-up" payment of 600 Turkish Liras (USD 107.5 per person) was made to 4,949 of those ESSN beneficiaries.
- A mission by a delegation from the WFP Executive Board members representing various countries visited Ankara on a fact-finding mission on 21-24 October. The delegation visited key ESSN stakeholders and met with ESSN-assisted households, discussing their experience with the ESSN card and the changes it brought into their lives. The visit helped to clarify for the participants the achievements and challenges related to the ESSN from the point of view of each stakeholder.
- WFP continues its support to 114,178 refugees in camps across the southeast of Turkey, with a monthly e-voucher worth TRY 50 (USD 8.9) provided to each person to buy food in participating shops. The Turkish Government provides an additional TRY 50 on a separate card for food and non-food items. The number of camp residents continued to decrease in October 2018, mainly due to the closure of one more camp in Sanliurfa province, which has resulted in nearly 20,000 of its residents resettling in nearby cities, rather than moving to new camps. The remaining 1,550 residents opted to move to another camp in the same province.

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Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018)

Total Requirement (in USD) *	Allocated Contributions (in USD) **	Six Months (November 2018-April 2019) Net Funding Requirements (in USD) ***
738.6 m	826.8 m	49.0 m

*Total requirement: for 2018 only. **Allocated contributions are confirmed contributions beyond 2018. *** The ESSN program is funded at least until January 2019. Due to exchange rate fluctuation, activities are expected to be funded until March 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 October, ESSN focus group discussions (FGDs) investigated changes in the recent economic situation in Turkey and their effects on household incomes, job opportunities, prices and implications for the future of refugee households in Turkey. The findings will be shared in November after all nationwide data has been collated.
- Post-Distribution Monitoring for data collected in camps supported by WFP/TRC's e-food voucher programme between July and September 2018 demonstrates a deterioration in household outcomes; the improvements gained over the past few years are starting to reverse. With Turkey's annual inflation rate reaching almost 25 percent in September, the monitoring shows negative coping strategies, such as borrowing money and selling assets, are increasingly being adopted by assisted people as a means of meeting food and other needs. In addition, household diets are becoming more restricted. Data shows camps in Gaziantep had the highest unacceptable food consumption score followed by Adiyaman, Şanlıurfa then Adana. The food basket (per person monthly cost of a nutritious diet) that was TRY 108.12 at the end of June 2018 has increased to TRY 121.23 in September 2018. WFP is concerned that the current transfer value is not sufficient to meet the needs of the assisted people.
- The mid-term independent evaluation of the ESSN in Turkey covering the period from November 2016 to December 2017 has been finalised. A key finding is that the ESSN provided relevant and appropriate assistance in a highly innovative format. Read the full report [here](#).

Partnerships

- WFP and TRC collaborate at the country and field levels with Turkish authorities, including the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services; the Ministry of Interior's Directorates General of Migration Management (DGMM), Population and Citizenship Affairs (DGPC) and Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD); the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Vice President's Office; 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.

WFP Turkey in the News

- Turkish TV network CNNTurk broadcast a [report](#) on the Umudun Renkleri (Colour of Hope) project in which a group of Syrian women, supported by ESSN assistance, are creating art about their experiences as refugees. An exhibition of their work is planned for 28 November in Ankara.
- The [#IncredibleOrdinary](#) campaign continued to raise awareness among EU citizens about ESSN assistance to refugees in Turkey, with pop-up shops in Warsaw, Berlin and Amsterdam. Almost 800 people came to the shops, watched videos and engaged with WFP staff.



- Around 30 pieces of coverage of the Incredible Ordinary shops and the ESSN have appeared in Poland, France and Italy, including [this piece](#) in a leading Polish daily newspaper. A popular Dutch blog produced [this post](#) on the Amsterdam shop. Other influencer activity included posts from German blogger [Amazedmag](#) and French actress [Annelise Hesme](#).

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