



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## WFP Turkey Country Brief November 2018



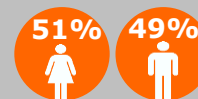
## In Numbers

WFP  
SAYS  
NO to  
GENDER  
BASED  
VIOLENCE

**US\$ 40.5 m** distributed in multi-purpose cash in November

**US\$0.95m** distributed through value vouchers in November

**1.57 m people assisted** in November 2018



## Operational Context

Turkey currently hosts the highest number of refugees in the world, 3.9 million people, of which 3.6 million are from Syria. Only 158,000 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 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)

## 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 November, the ESSN assisted 1,486,219 million vulnerable refugees across Turkey, providing each person with TRY 120 (USD 22.6) to help cover their essential needs. The monthly "severe disability top-up" payment of 600 Turkish Liras (USD 113 per person) was made to 5,498 of those ESSN beneficiaries. A periodic top-up to each ESSN-assisted household was also paid in November.
- The Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Security (MoFLSS) shared a circular with the Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations (SASFs), activating the implementation of the SASF Allowance. This mechanism will help ensure very vulnerable families not meeting the ESSN demographic criteria can access assistance. The first payment to eligible families is expected to take place in December.
- On 05 - 08 November, WFP, TRC and ECHO conducted the latest ESSN Joint Monitoring Mission (JMM) with the participation of MoFLSS, the Ministry of Interior's Directorates General of Migration Management and Disaster, the Emergency Management Authority (AFAD) and the Vice-Presidency Office. The missions visited ESSN sites and refugee families in: Agri, Balıkesir, Erzurum, Izmir, Mardin and Sanliurfa. The JMM was an opportunity for all partners to observe the achievements and challenges of the programme and to formulate recommendations for the future.
- WFP continues its support to 93,295 refugees in camps across the southeast of Turkey with a monthly e-voucher worth TRY 50 (USD 9.4) for 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.

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- WFP's 2018 campaign for the UN 16-Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) took the theme: **"Orange the World – Support gender-based violence survivors"**. In Turkey, WFP staff demonstrated support to the campaign by wearing orange in solidarity with GBV survivors. WFP staff have also shared stories from the field as well as their own experiences, to foster understanding and identify resources in order to support prevention and response measures against gender-based violence, which can affect the most vulnerable women, men, girls and boys.

## WFP Country Strategy



**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. Findings of the FGDs included an apparent increase in refugee living expenses, reported by participants in all FGDs. Some participants also reported the host community's perception of refugees as a burden on the Turkish social security system and highlighted increased competition in the job market.
- The Corporate Emergency Evaluation of the WFP Regional Response to the Syrian Crisis [report](#) covering the period from January 2015 to March 2018 has been published. Overall, the evaluation indicated the positive impact on the communities. Through its general food and basic needs assistance WFP served millions in need by innovating and adapting; piloting new approaches and, where necessary, leading on behalf of the humanitarian community.

## 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, NGOs and civil society. This helps maximise coverage of services for vulnerable refugees and reduce duplications in assistance.

## WFP Turkey in the News

Works of art expressing the unique viewpoint of female refugees in Turkey went on display at a gallery in Ankara on 28 November following a 3-month art initiative carried out within the framework of the European Union funded Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) cash assistance programme for refugees.

The Umudun Renkleri (Colours of Hope) initiative showed how the ESSN is making a difference for refugees and helped some of them use art as a way of dealing with their experiences of war, displacement and the building of a new life in Turkey. Among others, the exhibition was visited by ESSN stakeholder representatives and, naturally, the artists themselves. The major Turkish news outlets [Sabah](#), [Habertürk TV](#), [Euronews Turkey](#), [CNNTurk](#) and [Milliyet](#) were among the media reporting the exhibition, which will be on display in Istanbul from 05 to 12 December.

*"Producing this art helped me come to terms with the past and to move on from those experiences," said Salha, one of the women involved in the Umudun Renkleri project.*



## Donors

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