



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

## WFP Turkey Country Brief December 2018



## In Numbers

**US\$ 36 m** distributed in multi-purpose cash

**US\$ 0.90 m** distributed through value vouchers

**1.6 m people** assisted



## 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 143,000 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**

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

Income Level: **Upper middle**

Poverty Rate: **9.9% (WB)**

## 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 December, the ESSN assisted 1,519,591 million vulnerable refugees across Turkey, providing each person with TRY 120 (USD 22.6) to help cover their basic needs. The monthly "severe disability top-up" payment of 600 Turkish Liras (USD 113 per person) was made to 5,928 of those ESSN beneficiaries. In December, a new mechanism was introduced to assist highly socio-economically vulnerable refugees who do not meet the demographic criteria, in an effort to reduce the exclusion error.
- WFP continues its support to 94,015 refugees in camps across the southeast of Turkey, with a monthly e-voucher of TRY 50 (USD 9.4) per 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. WFP plans to continue supporting the response of the government in camps in 2019 and related discussions are ongoing with Directorates General of Migration Management.
- In December, WFP accompanied a Food For Peace (FFP) mission to the Adana camp, where more than 26,000 Syrian refugees live. The mission met the camp management, talked to the assisted people while they were shopping at the camp market, and conducted focus group discussions with male and female groups. The mission represented an opportunity for both the FFP and WFP teams to jointly observe achievements and eventual challenges, including the impact of inflation on beneficiaries' purchasing power.
- Through the in-camp and ESSN programme, USD 465 million was injected into the Turkish economy in 2018. Between October 2012, when WFP operations in Turkey started, and December 2018, more than USD 920 million was injected into the local economy through cash-based transfers under the in-camp, off-camp and ESSN programmes.

**Photo credit:** @WFP/Jennifer\_Kaplan

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## Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2019)

Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (February - July 2019) (in USD)
1.67 billion	830 million	231.6 million

\* Based on current implementation considerations, no imminent shortfall is expected.

**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)

WFP also has a history of large-scale commodity procurement in Turkey to support its global operations, with USD 2.05 billion worth of locally procured commodities since 2011.

## Monitoring

- ESSN Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) conducted in 10 provinces in November investigated protection-related experiences of refugees in Turkey, especially as related to access to ESSN assistance, and measured the awareness and utilization of ESSN communication and feedback mechanisms. Results indicated that the majority of the participants were aware of the 168 TRC hotline available for inquiries related to the ESSN programme. Many participants stated to regularly receive information on their payments and programmes updates via the ESSN Facebook page and the SMSs sent by TRC. The SMSs were regularly consulted, as they were in Arabic/Farsi. Most participants reported being aware of their right to report complaints about the programme. Many stated to know how to contact programme officials for their complaints. Across all groups, participants reported that they were treated with respect when submitting their applications for the programme.
- The first cross-sectional Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) venture was concluded in December. The cross-sectional PDM data was collected from 2,491 beneficiaries and 2,343 non-beneficiaries between February and April 2018. The data was intended to measure the ESSN programme's ability to meet the basic needs of households, compared to non-beneficiaries who have never received ESSN assistance. The data showed that non-beneficiaries have similar food consumption scores compared to the baseline (May 2017)

but demonstrated a reduction in their use of consumption-coping strategies as well as an increase in the use of some livelihood coping strategies, such as buying food on credit and borrowing money. For beneficiary households, on the other hand, data demonstrated improvements in all measured outcome indicators, including better food consumption score and a substantial reduction in the use of consumption and livelihoods coping strategies. While the accumulated debt of non-beneficiaries increased marginally between May 2017 and April 2018, it decreased by 43 percent for households benefiting from the ESSN, falling to almost half of the accumulated debt levels of non-beneficiaries. Overall, this presents observable improvements for the broader ESSN assisted population.

## Partnerships

- WFP and TRC collaborate with Turkish authorities at both country and field level. This includes the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services; the Ministry of Interior's Directorates General of Migration Management (DGMM), of Population and Citizenship Affairs (DGPC) 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, which is 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 in four locations, namely Ankara, Istanbul, Izmir and Gaziantep. This helps maximising the services coverage for vulnerable refugees and reducing duplication in assistance.

## WFP Turkey in the News

The Umudun Renkleri (Colours of Hope) exhibition, showing works of art by ESSN-assisted refugees, went on display in Istanbul's busiest metro station (Yenikapi) from 05 to 12 December 2018. The event attracted the attention of local media, including [Hürriyet news](#) and [Milliyet](#), and more than a dozen internet news sites.



## 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