



SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Turkey Country Brief January 2019

In Numbers

1.62 m people assisted
in January 2018



US\$ 35 m distributed in multi-purpose cash

US\$ 1.30 m distributed through value vouchers

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 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 of Turkey:
79.5 million

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

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

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 January, the ESSN assisted 1,530,030 million vulnerable refugees across Turkey, providing each person with TRY 120 (USD 22.6) to help cover their essential needs.
- A total of 25,538 beneficiaries living with disability receive the ESSN assistance. Of these, 6,330 received the additional monthly "severe disability top-up" payment of 600 Turkish Liras (USD 113 per person). ESSN partners are working with health and other actors to ensure refugees living with a disability can access their Disability Health Report (DHR), as obtaining or renewing them at the hospital can be challenging..
- WFP continues to support 90,666 refugees in camps across the southeast of Turkey with a monthly e-voucher worth 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.
- On 17 January, WFP accompanied the UK National Audit Office during their mission in Ankara to discuss and observe the ESSN in the context of a review of the UK's aid effectiveness globally.
- WFP participated in a [conference](#) on "Social Cohesion, Achievements and Challenges" organized by the Ordu Provincial Directorate of Migration Management in the Black Sea region. Participants included various government offices, the Ordu University, the municipality, UNICEF, UNHCR, NGOs and other stakeholders. The conference helped to answer questions on the international protection issues.

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Photo Caption: Ahmad and his wife shopping in Saricam camp in Adana, Turkey.
WFP/Nazire Uzen

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2019)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
1.67 billion	830 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (February – July 2019)*
935.3 m	205.4 m

* 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)

Monitoring

- In December 2018, ESSN Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) investigated the effect of winter on refugees' experience in Turkey, particularly as it relates to livelihoods, expenditure, social cohesion and assistance. Participants from all regions reported decreases in the number of available jobs during winter months. Heating and winter clothing costs were the most commonly reported additional expenses for most refugee households. Participants from the FGD locations in southern Turkey stressed the vulnerable conditions of recently relocated refugee families despite receiving UNHCR's one-off support after they moved to their neighbourhoods following the closure of nearby camps.
- Following the economic changes in 2018, including the devaluation of the Turkish lira and a steep increase in inflation, the national inflation rate reduced to 21.67 percent in November and 20.30 percent in December after a peak of 25.24 percent in October 2018. Refugees living in the community continue to note the rising prices.
- The trends in the assisted camps demonstrate that, after a volatility in the food basket prices in the third quarter of 2018 and an increase in the month of October, the prices were relatively stable in the last quarter of 2018. Malatya camp consistently had the highest food basket cost among all camps. Harran camp (Sanliurfa) showed the sharpest price increase in the past two quarters. Sariçam (Adana)

and Ceylanpinar (Sanliurfa) food basket prices decreased slightly in November but reverted to October prices in December.

- As of 2019, according to a change in national legislation, all plastic shopping bags cost TRY 0.25 (USD 0.07); this is in effect in all camp markets. The reaction of the camp residents will be followed by WFP/TRC staff.
- In Sariçam camp, due to the high number of disabled residents, the camp management purchased 100 wheelchairs with their own funds for the disabled in cooperation with Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD).

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), 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, co-chaired by the Government of Turkey and ECHO.
- An ESSN Task Force in four locations, co-chaired by WFP and TRC, ensures external coordination with UN agencies and NGOs. This helps to maximise coverage of services for vulnerable refugees and reduce duplications in assistance.

Story Worth Telling

Learning art techniques helped a group of Syrian refugees in Turkey to re-examine the events of recent years and move on mentally; [read](#) how Hanan's art work helped her gradual transition from chaos and fear to stability and hope.



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