



SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Turkey Country Brief February 2019

In Numbers

1.63 m people assisted
in February 2019



USD 43.8 m distributed in multi-purpose cash

USD 0.86 m distributed through value vouchers

Operational Context

Turkey currently hosts the highest number of refugees in the world, 4 million people, of which 3.6 million are from Syria. Only 140,000 refugees reside in camps located in the Southeast, 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 contribute to the ability of refugee households to meet their the basic needs, 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 continued to deliver aid through the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN), the world's largest humanitarian multi-purpose cash programme, thanks to the funding from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Assistance Operations (ECHO).
- In February, the ESSN assisted 1,545,674 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 TRY 600 (USD 113 per person) was made to 6,638 of those ESSN beneficiaries. In addition, WFP provided a periodic top-up ranging from 50 to 250 Turkish Liras (USD 8.3 - 41.6) to each ESSN-assisted household. Larger top-ups are allocated to smaller families who do not benefit from economies of scale.
- On 27 February, the Head of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey Coordination Office and his team from the Vice Presidency Office visited the WFP Turkey Office in Ankara to learn about WFP's global portfolio of operations. The visitors were also hosted at the Joint WFP-TRC Management Cell and observed the successful ESSN partnership.
- In February, WFP launched partnerships with TRC and the World Academy for Local Government and Democracy (WALD) to pilot the *Mutfakta Umut Var (MUV)* (Turkish: Kitchen of Hope), an eight-month Cash-For-Training programme funded by the Republic of Korea. The MUV pilot aims at developing skills in the hospitality and food service industry for 120 Syrian beneficiaries and Turkish citizens in Ankara and Istanbul. WFP, TRC and WALD are cooperating with the Ministry of National Education, local authorities, the private sector, and employment service providers to ensure the success of this programme.
- WFP continues to support 90,659 refugees in six 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.

Contact info: turkey.info@wfp.org

Country Director: Nils Grede

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/turkey

Photo Caption: Muna and her family, a household assisted by the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) in Ankara, Turkey.
WFP/ Ozan Toptas

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2019)

| Total Requirements (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1.67 billion | 832 m |
| 2019 Requirements (in USD) | Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (March – August 2019)* |
| 935.3 m | 259.3 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 January 2019, ESSN Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were held to investigate refugee experiences and perceptions related to three key themes: ESSN assistance, Livelihoods, and Social Cohesion. The highlights included a common sentiment – frequently expressed by participants in previous FGDs and in the January FGDs – that the ESSN assistance supports beneficiaries to pay their rent and utility bills regularly. This improves their sense of financial stability and provides confidence regarding their future within the local community. While some participants pointed out that they did have issues with accessing information about the programme during its earlier months, according to their statements most of those issues were resolved over time. The most accessible jobs for refugees have been found within the construction, agriculture and textile industries. However, due to recent changes in the economy, the majority of participants reported a decrease in the number of jobs available within these sectors.
- In the fourth quarter of 2018, surveys in 57 Provinces in Turkey indicated that decisions about how the assistance is spent are made together by men and women in 45 percent of beneficiary households. In 29 percent of the households, spending decisions are made by women only compared with 26 percent of households where decisions are made

by men only. In addition, 93 percent of ESSN beneficiaries did not report having any issues while redeeming their assistance; 96 percent of eligible applicants reported receiving their ESSN application outcome via SMS messages; and around 91 percent of all applicants had received notification about whether or not their application was accepted.

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 Directorate 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 seven locations, co-chaired by WFP and TRC, ensures external coordination with UN agencies and non-governmental organizations. This helps to maximise coverage of services for vulnerable refugees and reduce duplications in assistance.

Story Worth Telling

- [Read](#) about Isaf's journey from her home in Hama, Syria, to Kahramanmaraş camp in Turkey and how the e-food card means her family can eat the Syrian food they like.



- [Read](#) how the ESSN's disability allowance makes caring for Amani much easier; 'at least I do not need to worry about being able to afford things like biscuits, milk and the like,' says Amani's mother.

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