

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



In-camp card Programme

Assisting refugees in camps in Turkey



Assistance to refugees in Camps

Turkey continues to be the country hosting the greatest number of refugees in the world, almost four million people. Of these, 3.68 million are Syrian while the rest are from other countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, and Iran.

By March 2020, around 63,700 of the most vulnerable refugees, mostly Syrians, are housed by the Government of Turkey in 7 camps across the southeast region.

WFP partners with the Turkish Red Crescent (TK/Kizilay) to provide them with e-voucher assistance in camps. The programme started in 2012 when, for the first time, WFP used e-voucher assistance from the onset of an emergency. Each household received a card, topped up monthly with 100 Turkish Liras. These are redeemable in participating shops in exchange for food, giving beneficiaries choice and restoring independence to their lives.

Since 2012, WFP has injected over USD 227 million into the Turkish economy through the in-camp Card Programme.

Objectives

WFP's assistance aims to:

- Ensure vulnerable refugees can consume enough food and have a diverse diet;
- Reduce or stabilize negative coping strategies such as lowering food intake or sending children to work instead of school;
- Enhance national crisis-response capacities.

Achievements

Thanks to sustained assistance since 2012:

- 94 percent of households have acceptable food consumption;

- Refugees in camps generally have diverse diets;
- Women are involved in decisions on the use of assistance in 89 percent of households;
- A strong partnership has been built with the Government of Turkey and Kizilay.

Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19) Response

WFP stands ready to support the Government's response to the COVID-19 crisis. WFP will continue assistance to refugees hosted in camps and further support by enabling access to vital household hygienic items for its beneficiaries in camps where physical distancing is particularly difficult.

WFP will provide hygiene kits for in-camp residents and personal protective equipment, namely gloves and masks, for health workers providing health services to in-camp residents. WFP will also provide a one-off TRY 1000 top-up to each household, in line with a Government transfer to vulnerable Turkish citizens. This will help counter reduced purchasing power. WFP together with Kizilay continue to sensitize the camp population about the importance of social distancing and changes to the programme due to COVID-19.

COVID-19 has had a concerning impact on the economy. The first COVID-19 case in Turkey was confirmed in the first half of March. Analysis, assessments and monitoring activities are ongoing, adjusted to address challenges in mobility, such as expansion of remote data collection methods, to ensure continued visibility of the food security situation and the impact on vulnerable populations. WFP has shifted all ongoing monitoring activities to phone-based surveys in view of COVID-19.

Kızılaykart helps vulnerable refugees navigate uncertain times

Murvet is a Syrian refugee mother from Latakia, living with her family in Osmaniye camp since late 2012.

When they were living in Syria, she was producing fabric and her husband Tevfik was a farmer.

One of Murvet's four children; Omer (23) has Down Syndrome. He helps family with daily chores.

Mohammed (21) works and studies in Istanbul, while Fatma Zehra (15) and Ibrahim (14) go to school in the camp. Her husband has stomach issues and high blood pressure.

Murvet remembers when they first received the e-food card: "I was so happy that I was able to buy food that my children love and I could cook with my husband's sensitive health in mind."

Murvet has only one wish: "A life. Not for myself but for my children. I want to see them get proper education

and have a future. I want to see Mohammed wearing his graduation cap. Fatma wants to be a psycho-social counsellor, Ibrahim is so good at learning foreign languages. I would like to see them building lives of their own."



Accountability to those in need

WFP and Kızılay constantly assess the quality of goods and prices in the shops where the e-voucher is redeemable. WFP field teams keep in contact with registered card users to hear their experiences, so that their voices can be heard and their views help inform adjustments that need to be made. Kızılay has helpdesks in camps which can provide assistance including replacing lost, stolen, or non-functional cards.

How refugees cook in camps

Containers are provided with electrical stoves and utensils by the Government of Turkey, Kızılay and UNHCR. This means refugees can use their assistance to prepare wholesome meals for their families.

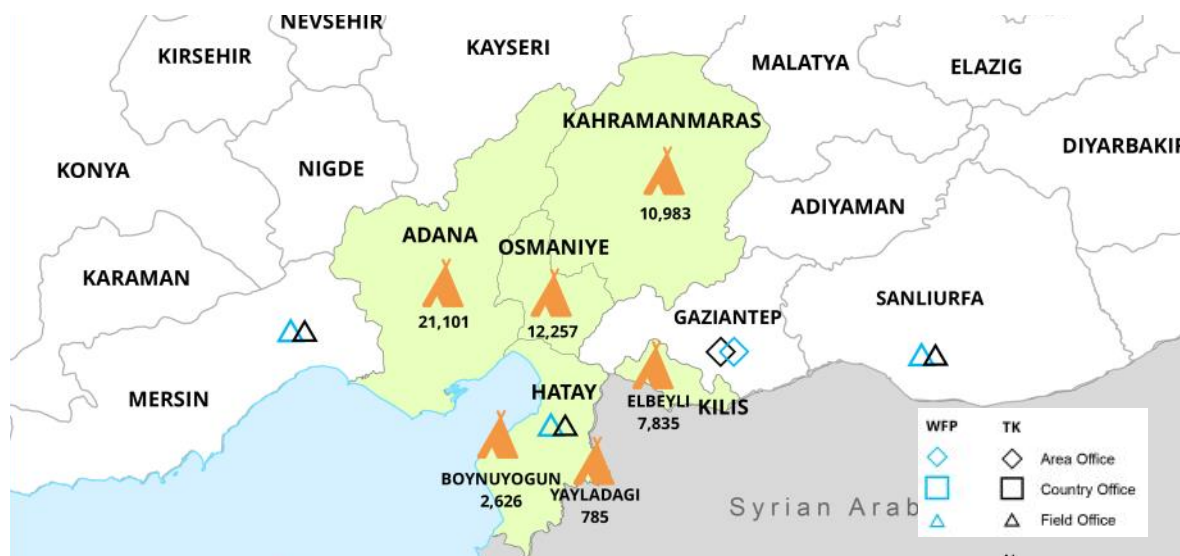
Refugees outside of camps

More than 99 percent of refugees in Turkey live outside of camps in towns and villages. Many live in poverty. The most vulnerable of them are assisted by the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme, which provides monthly cash assistance to more than one and a half million refugees to help them cover their basic needs.

WFP's e-food card programme is implemented in partnership with the Government of Turkey and Kızılay.



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