



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Turkey Country Brief April 2019

In Numbers

1.69 m people assisted
in April 2019



US\$ 35.4 m distributed in multi-purpose cash

US\$ 0.8 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 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 Strategic Plan](#) builds on WFP's partnership with the Government of Turkey and other stakeholders to contribute to refugee households' ability to meet their 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 (TK/Kızılay) and the Turkish Government, with funding from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), continued to deliver assistance through the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN), the world's largest humanitarian multi-purpose cash programme.
- In April, the ESSN assisted 1.6 million vulnerable refugees across Turkey, providing each person with TRY 120 (USD 22.6) to help cover their essential needs. Of those, 7,090 people received the monthly "severe disability top-up" payment of TRY 600 (USD 113) per person.
- In April, WFP rolled out the Cash-For-Training pilot, Mutfakta Umut Var (MUV - Kitchen of Hope) with Kızılay and the World Academy for Local Government and Democracy (WALD). Sixty (60) Syrians living in Turkey under Temporary Protection (SuTP) as well as Turkish women and men received vocational cooking training in Ankara and Istanbul. An additional 25 SuTP attended a Turkish language course. The first cash transfer of TRY 1000/person/month will be made in May to the participants who reached at least 80 percent attendance.
- Eight Kızılay ESSN outreach offices (Istanbul, Izmir, Ankara, Gaziantep, Hatay, Samsun, Erzurum and Van) continue to support refugees to overcome barriers in accessing the ESSN programme, including issues related to ID and address registrations, obtaining disability health reports (DHR), and accessing application and distribution sites. Overall, 66 percent of the total 17,121 cases identified have been resolved in the first quarter of 2019.
- On 17 April, WFP accompanied the Ambassador of Japan in a visit to Altindag Social Solidarity and Assistance Foundation (SASF) and to an ESSN-assisted family, to allow a better understanding of urban refugees' living conditions, including employability and schooling.
- WFP continues to support about 89,300 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 both food and non-food items.

Contact info: turkey.info@wfp.org

Country Director: Nils Grede

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

Photo Caption: Children in Kahramanmaraş Camp, Turkey.
WFP/ Feride Yildirm

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2019)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
1.67 billion	845.2 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (May – October 2019)*
935.3 m	230.9 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

The analysis of the ESSN Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) Cross Section Round 2 survey covering the period August – November 2018 was completed in April 2019. The data measured the ESSN programme’s ability to meet the basic needs of households, compared to non-beneficiaries who have never received ESSN assistance.

The overall results of the survey indicated that while the situation for beneficiary households has improved much more than for non-beneficiaries since the start of the programme, beneficiary households were also more sensitive to changes in price levels.

Similarly, in terms of food consumption and coping strategies, the improvement since the baseline (May 2017) was much more pronounced for beneficiaries compared to non-beneficiaries. In some cases, non-beneficiaries started off and ended with better outcomes (for instance lowering use of consumption coping strategies such as relying on less preferred food, borrowing to buy food, or reducing number of meals eaten per day). In other cases, the beneficiary outcomes surpassed those of non-beneficiaries despite having started at a worse point (such as the use of livelihoods coping strategies levels including selling household assets). The share of households resorting to sending children to work or reducing health and education expenditure have also declined since the baseline for beneficiary households.

While the beneficiary outcomes showed a significant improvement between the baseline and April 2018, the

trend for beneficiaries reversed during the second half of 2018, with deteriorating results brought on by the economic [recession](#) and the eroding purchasing power; this deterioration affected food consumption, coping strategy, debt and expenditure results. Similar deterioration was also observed in non-beneficiaries. While the debt per household had nearly halved for beneficiaries between the baseline and April 2018, the reversal in the trend was also more pronounced for beneficiary households, which exhibited a 25 percent increase in debt levels during the second half of the year when the negative impact of rising inflation was felt most strongly.

Partnerships

- WFP and Kızılay 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) and of Population and Citizenship Affairs (DGPC); 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 Kızılay, 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

Ahlen, from Iraq, is a 38-year-old widow and the sole care provider for five children. Ahlen and her children started receiving ESSN cash in 2018. This assistance is just enough to help the family over the line each month. However, Ahlen said, " I am still able to buy the children a small gift on their birthdays or for festivals, which makes all of us happier. Even being able to buy a school bag is a good feeling," says Ahlen. [Read](#) more about her perilous journey from Tal Afar to Sinjar in Iraq and then on to Manbij and Aleppo in Syria before crossing into Turkey.



Donors

European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Germany, Hainan Airlines Group, Ireland, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, USAID