



SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Turkey Country Brief June 2019

In Numbers

1.72 m people assisted
In June 2019



US\$ 34 m distributed in multi-purpose cash

US\$ 0.6 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 105,000 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:
82 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/Kizilay) 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 June, the ESSN assisted almost 1.65 million vulnerable refugees across Turkey, providing each person with TRY 120 (USD 20.3) to help cover their essential needs. Of those, 7,355 people also received the monthly "severe disability top-up" payment of TRY 600 (USD 101).
- As part of the pilot phase of the *Mutfakta Umut Var* (MUV) (Kitchen of Hope) skills-development programme, 56 Syrian and Turkish participants received a 'Cook Apprentice' certification from the Ministry of National Education, after completing the gastronomy vocational training in May. Participants who reached at least 80 percent attendance in May (53) received a cash transfer of TRY 1000 (USD 169). A second vocational training started in June, with 36 Syrians and Turkish participants from Istanbul. A Pre-Assistance Baseline survey (PAB) and Employability Readiness Monitoring (ERM) for the MUV pilot were conducted between April and June.
- WFP supported 75,668 refugees in six camps across the southeast of Turkey with a monthly e-voucher worth TRY 50 (USD 8.4) per person to buy food in participating shops. The Turkish Government provided an additional TRY 50 on a separate card for both food and non-food items.
- The number of camp residents continued to decrease in June 2019, mainly due to the closure of two more camp in Sanliurfa province. Nearly 30,000 of the residents opted for resettling in nearby cities. UNHCR is providing a one-time payment for those who resettle, while they apply for assistance such as the ESSN.
- Since 2012, WFP's programmes have injected USD 1.28 billion into the Turkish economy through cash-based transfers, with funds transferred to beneficiaries up to June 2019 almost fully utilized to purchase products from the local markets (WFP's reconciliation analysis).

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Photo Caption: An ESSN-assisted Afghan family in Manisa, Turkey.
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Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2019)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
1.67 billion	846.4 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (July – December 2019)*
935.3 m	439.8 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 June, WFP and the World Bank published a joint report on Vulnerability and Protection of Refugees in Turkey, drawing on nationwide representative data. The data was collected after ESSN eligibility had been determined and before transfers had been disbursed. The report analyses the vulnerability of refugees in Turkey using a multidimensional approach. It also assesses how well the ESSN targets, supports and protects the most vulnerable.

Findings indicate high levels of vulnerability among refugees targeted by the programme, showing a lack of resources and use of negative coping strategies likely to have longer term implications on household productive capacity.

The analysis shows the ESSN targeting criteria as effective in selecting the most vulnerable refugees, despite excluding a small share of the extreme poor. An untargeted design would have minimized the exclusion error. However, given the current resource constraints, it would have also required reduced entitlements insufficient to meet basic needs. Future analysis will focus on the impact of the transfers on household welfare. Read the full report [here](#).

- The third round of ESSN Cross Section Post-Distribution Monitoring data collected between January – March 2019 displayed a deterioration in all indicators compared to November 2018, with even worse results for refugees who do not receive ESSN assistance. This suggests that cash assistance continues to play an essential role in supporting beneficiaries to meet their needs, preventing a deterioration

of their situation. The observed deterioration is likely driven by persistent high rates of inflation. Annual inflation was at 19.71 percent in March 2019, and at 29.77 percent for food and non-alcoholic beverages (Turkish Statistical Institute).

- The May ESSN focus group discussions (FGDs) investigated refugees' experiences with the healthcare services in Turkey. Most participants reported being generally satisfied and praised the availability of free services provided by the Government. The reported monthly medical cost of participants ranged from TRY 100 (USD 16.9) to TRY 800 (USD 135). However, for the majority it was below TRY 300 (USD 50.7) per month.
- The May ESSN FGDs also investigated 'Ramadan and Economic Conditions.' Almost all participants reported positive interactions with the host community during Ramadan; some stated that they often exchanged *iftar* dishes with their neighbours. However, most participants stated that their limited purchasing power did not allow them to prepare special meals, as they used to do in their home countries before the conflict.

Partnerships

- WFP and Kizilay collaborate at the central 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; and 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 Kizilay, ensures external coordination with UN agencies and NGOs. This helps to maximise coverage of services for vulnerable refugees and reduce duplications in assistance.

WFP in the News

- A media mission consisting of journalists from six European media outlets (Le Monde, France; Handelsblatt, Germany; Efe and El Periodico, Spain; and the Itlaian news agency (AGI), Italy) visited Ankara on 12 and 13 June to learn more about the ESSN programme. Soon after the mission articles were published in [El Periodico](#) and [EFE news agency](#), and [AGI](#) published a [story](#) about the ESSN.
- Read [here](#): on WFP Turkey's Country Director and Kizilay's Deputy Director General article on the innovative partnership in the assistance programme for Syrian refugees in Turkey.

Donors

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