



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Turkey Country Brief July 2019

In Numbers

1.73 m people assisted
In July 2019



US\$ 35 m distributed in multi-purpose cash

US\$ 0.62 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. Around 87,000 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 July, the ESSN assisted more than 1.65 million vulnerable refugees across Turkey, providing each person with TRY 120 (USD 20.8) to help cover their essential needs. Of those, 7,474 people also received the monthly "severe disability top-up" payment of TRY 600 (USD 104).
- From 02-04 July, WFP, Kizilay and ECHO conducted a Technical ESSN Monitoring Mission in Mersin and Hatay to assess progress in the implementation and look at qualitative aspects of the programme. The mission particularly focused on the Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation (SASF) Allowance mechanism, which provides an alternative entry point to the ESSN for the most vulnerable refugees who do not meet the demographic eligibility criteria. The agenda included visits to SASFs, eligible and ineligible refugee households, informal housing areas, a factory employing refugees, meetings with NGOs and the business community.
- In July, WFP and partners continued to implement the pilot phase of the *Mutfakta Umut Var* (MUV or 'Kitchen of Hope') project with a second gastronomy vocational training course. On 04 July, WFP accompanied a representative from the German Embassy to a cooking session in Ankara which was held as part of the MUV training. The delegation observed the training and asked questions to beneficiaries on the programme, their experiences and expectations. Participants expressed high motivation on developing their careers in the hospitality and food service industry.
- WFP supported 71,411 refugees in five camps across the southeast of Turkey with a monthly e-voucher worth TRY 50 (USD 8.7) 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.

Contact info: turkey.info@wfp.org
Country Director: Nils Grede
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/turkey

Photo Caption: An exhibition of paintings produced by Syrian refugees living in Turkey, displayed at Strasbourg railway station in France in July 2019. ©WFP/Martin Penner

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2019)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
1.67 billion	997.4 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) September 2019 – February 2020*
935.3 m	309.3 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 July, WFP and Kizilay published their Livelihoods Survey Report, representing ESSN applicants in 19 provinces. The sample covered more than 400,000 refugee households (2.4 million refugees). The survey aimed to understand the refugees' participation in the Turkish labour market, and identify key facilitating factors and limitations. It found that 84 percent of refugee households include a working member, but that only three percent have a work permit. It also found that those with a better command of Turkish are more likely to be employed and have slightly higher salaries. Language was cited as the main barrier by 74 percent of refugees in Istanbul, compared to only three percent in Mersin, in the South of Turkey. Read the [full report](#) for more findings on barriers to employment and requested support.
- The June focus group discussions (FDG) report was released in July. It investigated potential protection issues effecting refugees lives in Turkey through disabilities and gender perspectives. Participants living with dependents who suffer from limited physical mobility or mental illnesses noted that such cases often require care from multiple family members. They said that while there were no barriers in obtaining Disability Health Reports (DHR), the process was lengthy. The participants were satisfied with the level of cooperation extended by Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations (SASFs) staff members when submitting DHRs to benefit from the ESSN Severe Disability Top-Ups. Almost all participants listed medical costs, transportation, rent, utility bills and food expenditure as their most significant

expenses. The vast majority also stated that if they faced protection issues, they would contact either the police or the SASFs and Kizilay Services Centers to seek assistance.

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; 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 Kizilay, ensures external coordination with UN agencies and NGOs. This helps maximize coverage of services for vulnerable refugees and reduce duplications in assistance.

WFP in the News

- On 18 July, an exhibition of paintings produced by Syrian refugees opened at Strasbourg railway station in France. The paintings, previously exhibited in Ankara and Istanbul, were produced by ESSN beneficiaries as part of the Colours of Hope project. The event was covered by the French media, including [La Croix](#), [L'Express](#), [Orient le Jour](#) and [L'Alsace](#).

Story Worth Telling

- Shaheeda, 28, has three children. "All my children are underdeveloped, the eldest one is very weak and small for his age" but now "none of us goes to bed hungry. I thank everyone who is involved in giving us this help" Shaheeda says. [Read](#) more about her hard journey from Afghanistan through Iran before crossing into Turkey, in June 2018.



- Hadil, 17-year-old, has been living in the Kahramanmaraş refugee camp since 2015, after fleeing with her family from Idlib. [Read](#) how WFP and Kizilay e-food card teams helped her.

Donors

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