



World Food Programme

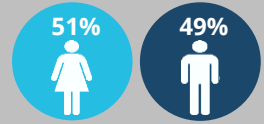
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Turkey Country Brief August 2019

In Numbers

1.74 m people assisted
In August 2019



US\$ 54 m distributed in multi-purpose cash

US\$ 0.54 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. Around 61,200 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 August, the ESSN assisted more than 1.67 million vulnerable refugees across Turkey, providing each person with TRY 120 (USD 22) to help cover their essential needs. Of those, 7,458 people also received the monthly "severe disability top-up" payment of TRY 600 (USD 108).
- A top-up paid every quarter was also provided to each ESSN-assisted household, ranging from TRY 100 to 600 (USD 18 - 108). Larger top-ups are allocated to smaller families who do not benefit from economies of scale.
- In August, WFP and partners continued to implement the pilot phase of the *Mutfakta Umut Var* (MUV or 'Kitchen of Hope') training with a second gastronomy vocational training course. With this second cohort completing two months of vocational cooking training in Ankara and Istanbul, 115 Syrians and Turkish participants received 'Cook Apprentice' certifications from the Ministry of National Education, as well as WFP's cash transfers of TRY 1000 each per month.
- As a result of camp decongestion started by the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) in July, four camps - Harran (Sanliurfa), Beydagı (Malatya), Oncupinar (Kilis) and Nizip2 (Gaziantep), were closed in August. Most of the camps residents opted for resettlement in nearby cities, thus benefiting from UNHCR one-off payments to refugees who resettle in host communities. The population of the remaining camps has reduced to 61,000 refugees.
- WFP continued to support 44,259 refugees in three camps in southeast Turkey with a monthly e-voucher worth TRY 50 (USD 9) per person to buy food in participating shops. On 20 August, WFP, in conjunction with TRC, extended this e-voucher assistance to an additional 17,188 beneficiaries in three more camps (Elbeyli in Kilis, Yayladagi and Boynuyogun in Hatay). The Turkish Government provides an additional TRY 50 on a separate card for both food and non-food items.

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2019)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
1.67 billion	991.3 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (September 2019 – February 2020) *
935.3 m	360.4 m

*The significant level of support committed for the ESSN, the devaluation of the Turkish Lira and a decreasing camp population will allow WFP to avert any pipeline break in the assistance provided to the refugee population in the next six months.

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 in-Camp Price Market Monitoring (PMM) and On-Site Monitoring (OSM) report for the second quarter of 2019 was finalized in August. The report shows that after volatile food basket prices during the third quarter of 2018, prices in the camps were relatively stable from the last quarter of 2018 until the end of June 2019.
- In preparation for the expansion of the e-voucher programme to all remaining civilian camps, food price monitoring activities covered prices in Hatay (Altinozu and Yayladagi camps), Kilis (Oncupinar and Elbeyli camps) and Gaziantep (Nizip-2 camp) in June.
- The common concern among residents in all camps is the deterioration in purchasing power and the insufficiency of the current assistance (TRY 100) as compared to the value of the food basket (TRY 120). This makes it difficult for refugees to meet their needs. In June, the food basket at contracted shops dropped to TRY 121, and to TRY 137 at non-contracted shops. Excluding the five new camps, the basket costs would have been TRY 124 and TRY 141, respectively.
- Malatya camp consistently had the highest food basket cost among all camps. Nizip-2 and Elbeyli camps had the

cheapest food basket of all the camps. In June 2019, Yayladagi camp was the second most expensive after Malatya. Harran (Sanliurfa) and Osmaniye camps had gradual decreases in food basket costs in the second quarter.

- In June 2019, the Turkish annual inflation rate fell to 15.7 percent, almost the same rate as June 2018. However, income generated by refugees fell from 142 TRY to 134 TRY per person per month since the beginning of 2019, because of the economic shrinkage and the increasing unemployment.

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

- Read articles on the ESSN in Turkey on France's [Le Monde](#) and Germany's [Handelsblatt](#).
- [Watch](#) the national news channel in Turkey (NTV) for news about the *Mutfakta Umut Var* or 'Kitchen of Hope' project.

Story Worth Telling

- Nesrin from Syria and Sevgi from Turkey share a passion for cooking and met at the *Mutfakta Umut Var* training. Read how cooking increased their understanding of each other, promoting an environment of increased tolerance and cohesion (in [English](#) and [Turkish](#)).



- Watch WFP Turkey [video](#) on ESSN activities.
- Watch a video on the *Mutfakta Umut Var* project training, in [English](#), [Turkish](#) and [Korean](#).

Donors

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