



World Food Programme

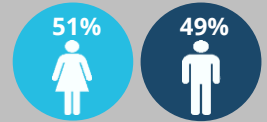
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Turkey Country Brief September 2019

In Numbers

1.74 million people assisted
In September 2019



US\$36 million distributed in multi-purpose cash

US\$0.47 million distributed through value vouchers

US\$156.4 million six month net funding requirements (November 2019 – April 2020)

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 62,600 refugees reside in 7 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 (TUIK)

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 September, the ESSN assisted close to 1.7 million vulnerable refugees across Turkey, providing each person with TRY 120 (US\$21) to help cover their essential needs. Of those, 7,584 people also received the monthly "severe disability top-up" payment of TRY 600 (US\$103).
- WFP supported 54,735 refugees in six camps across the southeast of Turkey with a monthly e-voucher worth TRY 50 (US\$9) 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.
- In September, WFP and partners conducted the first focus group discussions (FGD) on the *Mutfakta Umut Var* (MUV or 'Kitchen of Hope') cooking apprenticeship pilot project. The objective was to collect feedback from the trainees on different aspects of the programme and learn from their experience for the benefit of future projects. Thirty trainees (23 women and seven men) participated in Istanbul and Ankara, with women and men attending separate sessions. Both Turkish and Syrian participants took part in the session for women, most of whom said that the kitchen training helped them hone their culinary skills (the training was particularly helpful for Syrian women not familiar with the Turkish cooking style), strengthened their determination to develop careers in the hospitality and food service industry, as well as fostered social cohesion, allowing participants to form friendships that continued even outside of the class.
- The MUV pilot programme begins with two months of technical skills training. After successful completion, trainees receive a government-issued Chef Apprentice certificate. Trainees then benefit from an additional two-months of work experience at a partner hotel, restaurant or café. In October, participants are expected to start the second phase of the pilot programme at an assigned work place.

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

Photo Caption: Sensitization given to a disabled elderly during e-card distribution at the Elbeyli camp in Kilis, Turkey, ©WFP/Feride Yildirim

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2019)

| Total Requirements (in US\$) | Allocated Contributions (in US\$) |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1.67 billion | 990 m |
| 2019 Requirements (in US\$) | Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (November 2019 - April 2020)* |
| 935 m | 156.4 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 monthly ESSN FGD report for data collected in July was released in September. WFP and Kizilay field teams discussed livelihood and gender through 18 FGDs with participation of 144 refugees from five provinces in Turkey.
- FGD findings showed that in most refugee families, men and boys are mainly responsible for generating income for the household, while women and girls are responsible for household chores and childcare. However, according to participants' statements, more refugee women participate in the labour force in Turkey than would do so in their home countries. Some participants expressed that the local culture in Turkey, specifically the more common participation of Turkish women in the labour force, positively influenced their perception of working women and encouraged more refugee women to seek employment opportunities to support their families.
- Most participants stated that often boys work at textile shops, barbers, restaurants and cafés during their breaks from school. A participant from Gaziantep stated that "I know it is not fair sending children to work, but when you are in a tough situation there are no other options. I am aware that I need to send my children to school instead of work, but this is an obligation for us because of our life conditions".
- Participants with university degrees expressed their grievance about not being able to work in fields relevant to

their educational background, often stating that they had to resort to working in unskilled jobs for low wages in order to meet their basic needs. On the other hand, most participants who were carpenters, tailors, barbers and agricultural workers back in their home countries reported that they had been able to find work in the same types of businesses in Turkey.

Partnerships

- WFP and Kizilay (Turkish Red Crescent) 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

- Journalists from different European media outlets, namely Wiener Zeitung (Austria), DR (Denmark), Radio France (France), Kathimerini (Greece), Rzeczpospolita (Poland), La Razon (Spain) and HVG (Hungary), paid a visit to Turkey to report on ECHO projects. On 24 September, they spent a day with WFP, learning about the ESSN. A WFP team accompanied them on visits to two ESSN-assisted households. They also interviewed WFP's Country Director, Nils Grede.

Story Worth Telling



[Read](#) why cash assistance under the ESSN made Mohammad describe 'choice' as a 'priceless feeling when you are a refugee.' Muhammad, 45, fled to the town of Biga, in northwestern Turkey, from his hometown Aleppo in 2015. His family joined him a year later and became eligible for cash assistance under the ESSN in 2017.

Donors

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