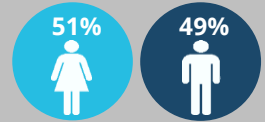




WFP Turkey Country Brief October 2019

In Numbers

1.77 m people assisted
In October 2019



US\$ 36 m distributed in multi-purpose cash

US\$ 0.49 m distributed through value vouchers

US\$151.5 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 63,000 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 (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 October, the ESSN assisted over 1.7 million vulnerable refugees across Turkey, providing each person with TRY 120 (USD 21) to help cover their essential needs. Of those, 7,849 people also received the monthly "severe disability top-up" payment of TRY 600 (USD 103).
- WFP supported 55,731 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.
- On 7 and 9 October, WFP and partners conducted cooking workshops in Ankara and Istanbul respectively, with the participation of 38 trainees from the *Mutfakta Umut Var* (MUV or 'Kitchen of Hope') pilot project. Twenty-three participants were Turkish, and 15 were Syrian. Three quarters of the participants were female. The workshops were held with the aim of evaluating the capacity of participants for peer-to-peer training planned for the MUV project scale-up. Their performance was assessed in terms of techniques in using knives, creativity (such as cooking with ingredients other than basic ingredients such as potato and eggs)-and getting the amount of spices right for soup and other dishes. The participants were working with each other in an inter-active environment, putting their questions to the chefs. Representatives of the Norwegian embassy paid a visit to the workshop in Ankara, where they had the opportunity to observe the cooking activities and interact with participants and chefs.
- Memorandum of Understanding between WFP and the Turkish employment agency ISKUR was signed in October. This will allow participants who have already completed the culinary skills phase of their MUV training to proceed to the 'on-the-job training' component at a partner hotel, restaurant or café. In November, participants are expected to start the second phase of the pilot programme at assigned work places.

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) (November 2019 – April 2020) *
935.3 m	151.5 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)

Workshops for the Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations (SASFs)

- During 21-23 October and 24-26 October, the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, WFP, the Turkish Red Crescent (TK/Kizilay) and UNICEF jointly organized workshops in Antalya for managers and officers from a total of 78 Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations (SASFs) nationwide. The sessions provided participants with a range of updates related to the ESSN and UNICEF's Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE). These included monitoring findings, as well as updates by representatives of the Directorate General of Civil Registration and Citizenship Affairs, the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) and the Ministry of National Education. Selected SASFs presented their best practices and participants had the chance to discuss challenges and common solutions through case studies.
- WFP staff from all area and field offices participated in the workshops and interacted with the SASFs. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) also took part. The workshops included sessions on stress management and interview techniques in relations to refugees and vulnerable citizens by external lecturers.

Monitoring

- The August edition of the monthly ESSN Focus Group

Discussions (FGD) report was released in October. During 17 focus group discussions with 157 refugees from 12 provinces, WFP and Kizilay field teams assessed the level of awareness among beneficiaries of the ESSN communication channels.

- FGD participants reported receiving information about the ESSN programme through all official information channels: the call centre (number 168), SASFs, Kizilay Service Centres, DGMM staff, SMS, and to a lesser extent, the ESSN Facebook [page](#) and the [Kizilaykart webpage](#). The majority expressed their satisfaction with the services provided through the ESSN Feedback and Complaint Mechanisms.
- Almost all participants stated their need for further information on education, healthcare (including psychological counselling) services, legal protection and livelihood opportunities in order to improve their conditions.

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 Steering Committee, 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.

Story Worth Telling



[Read](#) Mohammad's story after he legally started employment at chicken farm. He no longer receives ESSN assistance. Yet, the family says, without ESSN they would never have been in a position to apply for and get legal employment. ESSN cash assistance helped Mohammad's family cope during difficult times when they came to Turkey from Syria's Deir ez-Zor four years ago. "I am very happy that the money I earn helps send my sisters and brother to school," Mohammad says.

Donors

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