



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Country Turkey Country Brief November 2019

In Numbers

1.79 m people assisted
In November 2019

51%



49%



US\$ 36 m distributed in multi-purpose cash

US\$ 0.49 m distributed through value vouchers

US\$20.8 million six month net funding requirements (January – June 2020)

**WFP
SAYS
NO to
GENDER
BASED
VIOLENCE**

Operational Context

Turkey currently hosts the highest number of refugees in the world, 4 million people, of which 3.68 million are from Syria. Around 62,400 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 Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services, 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 November, the ESSN assisted over 1.74 million vulnerable refugees across Turkey, providing each person with TRY 120 (USD 21) to help cover their essential needs. Of those, 8,152 people also received the monthly "severe disability top-up" payment of TRY 600 (USD 103). 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.
- WFP supported 54,312 refugees in six camps across the southeast of Turkey with a monthly e-voucher worth TRY 50 (USD 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 November, 55 participants in the Mutfakta Umut Var (MUV or 'Kitchen of Hope') conditional cash for training project started their on-the-job training phase of the pilot programme at an assigned hotel, restaurant or café in Ankara and Istanbul, after signing a 2-month on-the-job training contract with Turkish Employment Agency 'ISKUR'. Participants are 44 percent Turkish citizens and 56 percent Syrian refugees, all of whom have completed the vocational skills training phase of the MUV project and obtained a government-issued Chef Apprenticeship certificate.
- Local representatives of the Republic of Korea, which is funding the MUV pilot, visited one of the training restaurants in Istanbul and met with MUV interns and the chef of the restaurant. Everyone enjoyed the free dessert!

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Photo Caption: MUV's first on-the-job-training signatures at the employment agency ISKUR in Ankara, Turkey,
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**Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan
(2018-2019)**

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
1.67 billion	1,090 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (January – June 2020)
935.3 m	20.8 m

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)

- On 19 November, the WFP Executive Board approved the [Turkey Interim Country Strategic Plan \(ICSP\) for 2020-2021](#). The Board Members appreciated the generous hosting of the refugees by the Turkish Government for a prolonged period. Building on WFP's current strategy in Turkey, the ICSP entails a strategic shift from primarily direct humanitarian assistance towards more sustainable, longer-term solutions.

Monitoring

- The September edition of the monthly ESSN Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) report was released in November. The FGDs investigated problems and barriers refugees may have faced and continue to face in Turkey due to issues with their identification documents (IDs, *Kimlik*) or other health, education and free movement-related problems they experience in their daily lives. Interviews were conducted with the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) and 155 ESSN beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, confirming the importance of IDs in order to access free healthcare services and education, job opportunities and freedom of movement within Turkey. Lack of official documents (birth, marriage, divorce or death certificates), was reported as an obstacle in the ID registration process. Some participants mentioned that before receiving IDs, they had to pay the consultation and medication costs in both public and private hospitals.
- The in-Camp Price Market Monitoring (PMM) and On-Site Monitoring (OSM) report for the third quarter (Q3) of 2019 was finalized in November. Q3 2019 was a period in which significant changes were made to the number and administration of refugee camps. The e-voucher programme was expanded to all the camps, decongestion policies were actively implemented, and four more camps were closed, following the closure of three camps in the second quarter (Q2). As a result of the decongestion process, most

of the concerned camp residents opted for resettlement in nearby cities. The population of the remaining six camps has now reduced to just under 55,000 people. 85 percent of the refugees who left the camps (75,666) applied for the ESSN, with almost 85 percent of them being granted assistance.

- The PMM report shows that the beneficiary purchasing power in the camps deteriorated severely in the third quarter of 2019. The food basket cost per person (TRY 127/ USD 22) exceeded the entire amount of monthly cash assistance (TRY 100/ USD 18), which is expected to cover all costs including non-food items. Post-Distribution Monitoring data collection in the camps started in the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2019, following revision of the sampling to account for the camp closures and inclusion of new camps in Q3 2019.
- In Q3 2019, annual inflation in Turkey fell to an official 9.26 percent (from 15.72 in Q2). However, the unemployment rate reached its highest level (13.9 percent) in ten years.
- Market monitoring analysis of Q3 2019 shows that the Minimum Expenditure Basket costs TRY 349 (USD 60) per refugee per month – an increase of 8 percent since September 2018 (TRY 324/USD 48). The average assistance for each ESSN beneficiary is TRY 145 (USD 25), accounting for the quarterly top-ups.

WFP in the News

- During 18-23 November, a training of trainers (ToT) session, as part of the Mutfakta Umut Var (Hope in the Kitchen) project, was held in Istanbul. An official ceremony marked its end. A group of 17 teachers from the Ministry of National Education will now train their students as assistant cooks in seven provinces in Turkey. Various local media covered the closing ceremony including: [CNNTurk](#), [TIMETURK](#), [haberler.com](#), [sondakika.com](#), [memleket](#), [PUSULA](#), [YeniHaber](#), [haberler.com](#), [MUZAKERAT](#), [BEYAZ GAZETE](#), [ARTI](#), and [HaberLutfen](#).

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