



World Food Programme

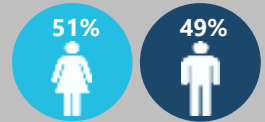
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Turkey Country Brief December 2019

In Numbers

1.8 m people assisted
In December 2019



US\$ 38 m distributed in multi-purpose cash

US\$ 0.92 m distributed through value vouchers

US\$24 million six month net funding requirements
(February - July 2020)

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 [Interim Country Strategic Plan](#) (ICSP 2020-2021) 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. Considering the protracted refugee presence in Turkey, the ICSP adds longer-term activities by increasing direct engagement in resilience programming that creates opportunities for refugees and host communities alike.



Population of Turkey:
82 million

2019 Human Development Index:
59 out of 188 (0.806)

Income Level: **Upper middle**

Poverty Rate: **28.7 percent** living below
the national poverty line (TUİK)

Operational Updates

- WFP, in partnership with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC/Kizilay) and the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (MoFLSS), 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 December, the ESSN assisted over 1.75 million vulnerable refugees across Turkey, providing each person with TRY 120 (USD 21) to help cover their essential needs. Of those, 8,486 people also received the monthly "severe disability top-up" payment of TRY 600 (USD 104).
- During 02 - 04 December, WFP Turkey organized the fifth ESSN Joint Monitoring Mission (JMM) with ECHO, MoFLSS, the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM), the Vice Presidency Office, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and TRC/Kizilay. The JMM participants visited ESSN beneficiaries and programme stakeholders both in Eskisehir and Adana-Mersin provinces. The mission was an opportunity to observe best practices and challenges in implementing the Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation (SASF) Allowance, one year after this complementary mechanism was put in place targeting the most vulnerable households who do not meet the demographic ESSN criteria.
- As of December, WFP is providing the full monthly assistance amount of TRY 100 (USD 17) per person in camps, in line with a request by DGMM. TRY 80 remains allocated to food, whereas the additional TRY 20 can be spent on food or non-food items. In December, WFP supported 53,419 refugees in six camps across the southeast of Turkey.
- The *Mutfakta Umut Var* (Kitchen of Hope) conditional cash for training pilot programme was successfully concluded by the end of December. Fifty-five (55) participants completed their on-the-job training at an assigned hotel, restaurant or café and thus received a certificate provided by Nationals Employment Agency 'ISKUR'. Participants received a cash transfer of TRY 2,020 (USD 354) for 26 working days per month. A scale-up of the project targeting 600 participants in seven cities is planned for 2020.

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Photo Caption: "Kitchen of Hope" training in Ankara, Turkey,
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Interim Country Strategic Plan (2020-2021)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
225 m	138 m
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (February - July 2020)
189 m	24 m

Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

Strategic Outcome #1: Enhance partnerships to support refugees and vulnerable populations, affected by prolonged refugee presence in Turkey to equitably access basic needs assistance and labour market opportunities.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- Strengthen partnerships with national institutions and partners to improve programme implementation.
- Provide technical support to Government and partners in assisting refugees living in Turkish communities.
- Provide technical support to Government and partners in assisting refugees living in camps in Turkey.
- Provide technical support to Government and partners in assisting refugees and vulnerable populations to equitably access labour market opportunities.
- Support Turkey to exchange knowledge, experience and technology with other countries through facilitation of South-South and triangular cooperation

- WFP’s 2019 campaign for the UN 16-Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) took the theme: **‘Orange the World: WFP Stands Against Sexual and Gender Based Violence’**. In Turkey, WFP staff demonstrated support for the campaign by creating a ‘shared experiences wall’ intended to generate understanding of gender-based violence. WFP’s Istanbul office hosted a cooking event called “Solidarity in the Kitchen,” with four female chefs guiding the preparation of Iranian, Syrian and Turkish food. WFP’s Izmir office campaigned with an orange chocolate-making activity. The WFP team in Gaziantep supported NGOs in distributing food and hygiene/female sanitation kits to vulnerable families.

Monitoring

- The fourth round of ESSN Cross Section Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) data collected between April – September 2019 showed that trends have stabilized at a positive level, with beneficiary outcomes better than pre-assistance levels. Findings showed that the proportion of households with acceptable food consumption has increased compared to both the baseline (May 2017) and the previous PDM (March 2019).
- PDM results showed that since the introduction of assistance, the use of coping strategies has been consistently lower among ESSN beneficiaries compared to non-beneficiaries. This applies to both food-related strategies such as reducing the number of meals consumed in a day or portion sizes and livelihood-related coping strategies such as withdrawing children from school or reducing health expenditure.
- PDM findings showed that while the median debt per household

is similar for both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, the average amount of debt is higher among non-beneficiaries (TRY 2440/USD 422) than beneficiaries (TRY 1820/USD 315). While beneficiaries had a higher average debt than non-beneficiaries before receiving assistance, their debt has remained consistently lower since the introduction of assistance. This suggests the ESSN has effectively safeguarded beneficiaries and facilitated better debt management.

- The fourth Comprehensive Vulnerability Monitoring Exercise (CVME4) that was released in January 2020,, covering the period September-December 2018, covered both ESSN applicants (eligible and ineligible) and refugees who have not applied for assistance, using a sample and dataset that makes it representative for the entire refugee population. Findings showed that 1.61 million registered refugees are multi-dimensionally poor. Almost six percent are individuals living with disabilities. The data also indicated that female-headed households and new arrivals are among the most vulnerable refugees. The extreme poverty rate is higher among the eligible (seven percent) compared to the ineligible population (two percent).

Story Worth Telling

[Read](#) how WFP’s ‘Kitchen of Hope’ helps get refugees into the world of work. Gursel, an Istanbul restaurant owner, who agreed to give two-month work placements to two Syrian refugees enrolled in WFP’s cash-for-training pilot programme, now says he is thinking of how to keep them on as full-time employees. Firat, the chef at another restaurant, enjoys seeing the dedication of the participants to this profession.



Murvet is a Syrian refugee mother from Latakia, living with her family in Osmaniye camp since late 2012. [Read](#) about what she wishes for in 2020, and how the e-voucher card she is holding gives her choice and some independence.

Donors

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