



SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



## WFP Turkey Country Brief February 2020

### Operational Context

Turkey currently hosts the highest number of refugees in the world, 4 million people, of which 3.58 million are from Syria. Around 63,500 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:  
**83.2 million**

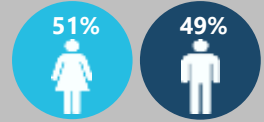
2019 Human Development Index:  
**59 out of 189** (0.806)

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

### In Numbers

**1.76 m people assisted**  
In February 2020



**US\$52.6 m** distributed in multi-purpose cash

**US\$0.91 m** distributed through value vouchers

**US\$6.3 million** six-month net funding requirements  
(March – August 2020)

### 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 February, the ESSN assisted over 1.7 million vulnerable refugees across Turkey, providing each person with TRY 120 (USD 20.1) to help cover their essential needs. Of those, 9,084 people also received the monthly "severe disability top-up" payment of TRY 600 (USD 100.3). A top-up paid every quarter was also provided to each ESSN-assisted household in February, ranging from TRY 100 to 600 (USD 16.7–100.3). Larger top-ups are allocated to smaller families who do not benefit from economies of scale.
- WFP supported 54,700 refugees in six camps across the southeast of Turkey with a monthly e-voucher worth TRY 100 (USD 16.7) per person to buy food and non-food items in participating shops.
- In February, the conditional cash-for-training programme *Mutfakta Umut Var*/Kitchen of Hope expanded to seven cities. 183 participants (103 Syrians, 80 Turkish), of whom 98 were women and 85 men, completed their first month of the 3 months vocational training. Those reaching at least 80 percent attendance will receive a monthly cash transfer of TRY 750 (USD 125).
- Participants who complete the training with at least 70 percent attendance will receive a vocational training certificate. This will allow them to continue with 3 months of on-the-job training, during which they will receive a cash transfer corresponding to the minimum wage (TRY 2,324/USD 388) complemented by social security incentives (TRY 161.89/USD 27).

**Interim Country Strategic Plan (2020-2021)**

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>225 m</b>	<b>158 m</b>
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (March – August 2020)
<b>189 m</b>	<b>6.3 m</b>

**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

**Monitoring**

- The January edition of the monthly ESSN Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) report explored shelter security among refugees. The aim of the FGDs was to enhance understanding of refugees’ housing conditions and assess the contribution of ESSN assistance in ensuring access to shelter.
- Most participants voiced dissatisfaction with their housing quality due to poor insulation, humidity and poor lighting, among others. Since their arrival in Turkey, most participants reported having changed houses at least once. Participants reported moving more frequently within their neighbourhoods for reasons such as finding better accommodation with lower/similar rental rates, avoiding high relocation expenses, staying closer to relatives and friends, and allowing children to continue their studies in the same school.
- Participants reported that their rental expenses amount to 30-60 percent of their income, while utility bills amount to 10-30 percent of their income depending on the province. All agreed that rent and utility bills are their priority expenses and they try to pay them on time to avoid disputes with the landlords or disconnection from services.
- Most ESSN beneficiaries said that ESSN cash assistance secures timely payment of their rent. They mentioned that after receiving assistance, their daily lives changed from being survival orientated to being “more secure” and “peaceful.” Participants previously living in informal housing such as garages highlighted that the ESSN helped them move to

“normal” houses that provide a more dignified life.

- In Q4 2019, annual inflation in Turkey reached 11.84 percent (from 9.26 in Q3) while the economy registered positive growth (0.9 percent).
- Market monitoring analysis of Q4 2019 shows that the Minimum Expenditure Basket costs TRY 367 (USD 61.3) per refugee per month compared to 338 TRY (USD 56.5) in Q4 2018. The average assistance for each ESSN beneficiary is TRY 145 (USD 24.2), accounting for the quarterly top-ups.

**WFP in the News**

- In February, WFP organized three exhibitions around Europe to showcase how the ESSN has changed the lives of vulnerable refugees in Turkey. The exhibitions entitled “The Incredible Ordinary” feature a personalized view of ESSN assistance through the eyes of five beneficiary families. Thanks to an augmented reality app, visitors could see and hear the families talk about how ESSN support has transformed their lives. The Incredible Ordinary was on display in Rome, Strasbourg and Madrid from late January to early March. Alongside the opening ceremonies in Rome (12 February) and Madrid (19 February), WFP organized roundtable discussions which brought together experts from the field and academia, representatives of the EU institutions and journalists to discuss policies for assisting refugees. Various local media in Turkey, Italy and Spain covered the launch event including: [haberler.com](http://haberler.com), [haberglobal.com](http://haberglobal.com), [Sonsoz Gazetesi](http://SonsozGazetesi), [Euro News](http://Euro News), [Agr Press](http://Agr Press) and [Europa Press](http://Europa Press).



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