



WFP Turkey Country Brief

WFP Assistance

GENDER MARKER **2A**

Turkey, Transitional
Interim Country
Strategic Plan
(TICSP)

January-December 2018

Total
Requirements
(in USD)

496 m

6-Month
Net Funding
Requirements (in USD)*

3 m

*March – August 2018

Turkey has the largest refugee population of any country in the world. Over 90 percent live in cities and villages across the country. Without assistance, many struggle to make ends meet, are forced into debt or to reduce the number of meals they eat, or to take their children out of school in order to work.

WFP partners with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC/Kizilay) and the Turkish Government, with funding from European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), to deliver the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme, a cash assistance programme helping vulnerable refugees cover basic needs such as food, rent, utilities, medicine, and clothing.

Each family supported by the ESSN receives a debit card, loaded monthly with 120 Turkish Liras (USD 32) per person. This can be used to withdraw money from ATMs or to pay in local shops, granting freedom of choice and returning a degree of normality to beneficiaries' lives. The ESSN prioritises women living alone, families headed by a single parent or the elderly, those with family members living with disability, or with many dependents, such as children or the elderly. Launched at the end of 2016, the ESSN now supports almost 1.2 million vulnerable refugees.

The programme leverages the existing WFP-TRC e-card scheme and the expertise of the Ministry of Family and Social Policies (MoFSP), under the coordination of Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD). The ESSN closely aligns with existing national social assistance programmes and works through government welfare centres. Building on the hospitality and generosity of the Turkish people and Government, the programme promotes social cohesion and benefits host communities by injecting money into local economies.

Through innovative partnerships with international and local actors, bridging the gap between humanitarian and development interventions, and its efficient delivery system, the ESSN embodies the spirit of the World Humanitarian Summit and the "Grand Bargain", a global agreement signed by more than 30 of the biggest donors and aid providers in 2016.

Main Credit: WFP/Deniz Akkus

Photo Caption: An ESSN beneficiary in Hatay, Turkey.

Highlights

- The Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme assisted almost 1.2 million vulnerable refugees across Turkey in February, providing them 120 Turkish Liras (USD 32) each to help cover basic needs. A periodic top-up was also paid in February.
- In February, WFP continued its support to very vulnerable refugees in ten camps across the southeast of Turkey, assisting 145,000 people with funds to buy food in participating shops. Funds are still needed to continue the assistance later in 2018.
- The revised Country Strategic Plan for Turkey in 2018 was approved by WFP's Executive Board in Rome.

In 2012, WFP joined forces with TRC to assist vulnerable Syrian refugees in camps through an e-card, topped up monthly and redeemable against nutritious foods in contracted shops. This marked the first instance in which WFP used electronic vouchers at the onset of an emergency response. In 2015, the programme was extended to vulnerable Syrians outside camps, a largely underserved community, paving the way for the ESSN.

Since 2012, WFP has injected USD 645 million into the Turkish economy through cash-based transfers. WFP also has a history of large-scale commodity procurement in Turkey to support its global operations. More than USD 1.68 billion worth of commodities have been procured in Turkey since 2011. Almost two thirds of these commodities have been used for food assistance in WFP's emergency response in Iraq, Syria and the region, including surrounding countries hosting refugees.

Operational Updates

By 26 February, 415,172 applications to the ESSN had been received, representing more than 2 million people. Around 2,000 applications were submitted each week in February. 99 percent have been processed. So far, 53 percent of assessed applications are eligible.

ESSN payments were transferred to 1,199,482 individuals in February, or 204,967 households. A quarterly top-up was also transferred to each household in February, from TRY 50 to TRY 250. These provide larger top-ups to smaller families which do not benefit from economies of size. The average beneficiary household size is now 5.85 people per household.

At the South-South Learning Forum, a representative of the Government of Turkey acknowledged WFP's partnership and mentioned the need to connect refugee assistance to development programmes.

In Numbers

145,246 refugees assisted in camps

1,199,482 refugees assisted by the ESSN

People Assisted
February 2018

52%



48%



February 2018

Analysis of the first round of ESSN Post Distribution Monitoring shows overall improvements in beneficiaries' situation through the regular cash assistance, including an increase in acceptable food consumption and reduction in use of consumption, crisis and emergency coping strategies. On the other hand, results show that non-beneficiaries might become more vulnerable than beneficiaries over time.

During Focus Group Discussions with off-camp refugees in Ankara Bursa, Diyarbakir, Gaziantep, Hatay, Istanbul, Izmir, Mersin and Sanliurfa, which focused on housing, many participants reported ESSN assistance's positive impact on their relationship with their landlords. Some reported moving to a better housing after becoming beneficiaries.

Plans for gender analysis are underway and will make use of available WFP data and analyses conducted by other UN agencies and humanitarian actors. It will produce recommendations to enhance gender equality through WFP Turkey's programmes.

WFP and TRC continue to work closely with MoFSP and the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) to facilitate the introduction of top-ups for severely disabled households, an allowance for Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations, which enables very vulnerable households which do not meet the demographic criteria onto the programme, and other adjustments to the ESSN.

In addition, vulnerable Syrians living in participating camps in the southeast of Turkey continued to receive 50 Turkish Liras (USD 13) per person per month to spend on food. In-camp price monitoring during December 2017 showed the cost of the average food basket in WFP-contracted shops was 72 Turkish Liras. AFAD provides an additional 50 Turkish Liras, which can be spent on both food and non-food items.

Partnerships

WFP and TRC work at the central and field levels in collaboration with Turkish authorities, including AFAD, MoFSP, the Ministry of Interior's Directorates General of Migration Management and Population and Citizenship Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations, and Governors' offices. Several agencies participate in the ESSN Governing Board, co-chaired by AFAD and ECHO. An ESSN Task Force co-chaired by WFP and TRC ensures external coordination with UN agencies and NGOs.

Story Worth Telling

See how Huda's family, who fled the war in Syria to Gaziantep, is benefiting from the ESSN programme on [Deutsche Welle](#) (in German).



Country Background & Strategy



A G20 country, Turkey has a large and diverse economy. The country is currently under a state of emergency, following a failed coup attempt in July 2016.

Turkey hosts the highest number of refugees in the world; 3.9 million as of February 2018. While around 230,000 refugees reside in camps located in the south east, the vast majority live in host communities all around the country. The Government has demonstrated leadership and generosity in providing for the needs of the populations affected by the Syrian crisis. Since June 2011, a temporary protection regime has granted Syrians access to basic services such as health care and education. Turkey officially maintains an open-door policy for Syrians although measures are in place to curb entries since January 2016. A regulation on the Work Permits for Syrians was passed in January 2016 with around 30,000 work permits granted to Syrians in 2016 and 2017.

In response to the migration crisis which led hundreds of thousands to undertake perilous journeys on the Mediterranean, Turkey and the EU agreed in March 2016 to set up a EUR 3 billion Facility for Refugees in Turkey (FRT) to fund humanitarian assistance to refugees in Turkey.

WFP has been present in Turkey since 2012.

Population: 79 million	2016 Human Development Index: 71 out of 188 (0.767)
Income Level: Upper middle GDP/capita: USD10,787 (2016)	Turkey's economy: 18th largest economy in the world

Current Donors (Alphabetical list)

Australia, Denmark, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), France, Germany, Hainan Airlines Group, Japan, Kuwait, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Norway, and the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

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