



WFP Turkey Country Brief

WFP Assistance

Food assistance to vulnerable Syrian populations in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt affected by conflict in Syria EMOP 200433 (Jul. 2012- Dec. 2016)**	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received	2 Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	461m	361m	-

*November - December 2016 (including pledges and solid forecasts)
** New project under development

Since 2012, WFP has joined forces with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) to assist vulnerable Syrian refugees through an electronic food (e-food) card that can be redeemed against nutritious foods in local supermarkets.

Turkey now hosts the largest refugee population in the world, including 2.7 million Syrians, 90 percent of whom live in communities. Many of them are resorting to negative coping strategies including indebtedness, reducing the number of meals or not sending children to school. The Government, WFP and other humanitarian responders have been helping these populations, but the needs vastly outweigh the current level of support.

In response, WFP has partnered with ECHO, the Turkish Government and TRC to design and roll-out the **Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN)**, the first social assistance scheme of its kind, using direct cash-transfers to cover the everyday needs of the most vulnerable refugee families.

The ESSN will support one million refugees, helping families afford the basic necessities from food and rent, to medicine and warm clothing for winter. Families will be assessed to see if they meet the ESSN criteria, prioritising families led by women and the elderly, or with family members living with disability. Families with many dependents, such as children or the elderly, will also be prioritised. Each refugee family supported by the ESSN will receive a debit card which can be used in local shops or to withdraw money from ATMs, granting them the freedom to choose what they need and giving them a degree of normality.

Building on the hospitality and generosity of the Turkish people and its Government, the programme will promote social cohesion, and positively impact host communities by injecting money into local economies.

The programme, developed and implemented in close partnership with TRC, will build upon existing voucher schemes and the expertise of the Ministry of Family and Social Policies (MoFSP) under the coordination of the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD).

Highlights

- WFP, together with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) and the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, is rolling out the Emergency Social Safety Net, a multi-purpose cash assistance scheme to assist one million vulnerable refugees nationwide. This innovative programme is funded by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO).
- In November, WFP will assist 297,000 vulnerable Syrian refugees with its e-food card programme, jointly implemented with TRC in the South-East of Turkey. 147,000 of them live in host communities while 150,000 are hosted in camps.

This will help ensure that the ESSN closely aligns with existing national social assistance programmes.

Meanwhile, in October, WFP and TRC continued assisting vulnerable Syrians with the **e-food card programme**, reaching 282,000 people. In the cities of Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Hatay, Kilis, Karamanmaras, Islahiye and Nizip, 135,000 vulnerable Syrians living in communities receive 62 Turkish Liras (USD 22.5)* on their cards every month. An additional 147,000 vulnerable Syrians living in camps receive 50 Turkish Liras (USD 18.2)* per person per month, complemented by assistance provided by AFAD. The e-food card programme in Turkey marked the first instance in which WFP has used electronic vouchers at the onset of emergency response. The programme has been highly successful in terms of satisfaction and efficient use of limited resources. The people assisted appreciate the flexibility of choosing which nutritious and diverse food to purchase. Overall, 95 percent of the assisted population has an acceptable food consumption score and a high level dietary diversity. Monitoring also shows that 85 percent of women participate in decisions on how to spend the e-food card money and often shop themselves.

Since 2012, WFP has injected USD 195 million into the Turkish economy through the e-food cards that are redeemed at local shops. WFP also has a history of large-scale commodity procurement in Turkey to support its operations globally, with USD 1.3 billion worth of commodities procured since 2011. Almost 70 percent of these commodities have been used for emergency food assistance within Syria and the region, including surrounding countries hosting refugees and WFP's emergency response in Iraq.

*Due to fluctuations in the exchange, the USD values are approximations only

In Numbers

3 m refugees registered in Turkey

147,000 refugees assisted in camps

135,000 refugees assisted in communities

People Assisted
October 2016

52%



48%



October 2016

Operational Updates

- A soft launch of the ESSN took place in two districts of Ankara (Ayaş and Altındağ): the Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations (SASFs) received the first ESSN applications. WFP Arabic speaking field staff monitored the systems during this key period of the roll out.
- In November, the ESSN will be further tested in the province of Sivas. SASF staff will be trained and sensitization materials prepared in anticipation of the nationwide roll-out.
- The analysis of the first round of remote post-distribution monitoring (rPDM) for assisted people living in host communities was finalized. Household food consumption has improved significantly compared to pre-assistance levels: the percentage of households with acceptable consumption increased from 71 to 84 percent. The findings also show that the assistance helped people diversify their diets and improved their ability to cope.
- Under the soft launch of the ESSN, sensitization was limited to avoid overcrowding. Overall, the process went quite smoothly at a small scale, though some key challenges as expected included ensuring the refugees have completed the pre-requisites for application, and the language barrier between the applicants and the SASF staff. WFP is working closely with partners to address these issues before the nationwide roll-out of the ESSN.

Partnerships

- WFP and TRC are working at the central and field levels in collaboration with Turkish authorities, including the Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Authority, the Ministry of Interior Directorate General of Migration Management, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Family and Social Policies, Social Solidarity and Assistance Foundations, and Governor's offices. WFP is also coordinating with UN agencies, NGOs and the donor community.

Story worth telling

- Read moving stories of humanitarian experiences featuring WFP field staff:
<https://insight.wfp.org/meet-the-teams-bringing-hope-to-syrian-refugee-families-in-turkey-d7933a7302a9#.ctdsecvxl>
- Some wonderful posts on Instagram from Rens Kroes, the Dutch blogger WFP hosted in Sanliurfa, as part of ECHO donation to the e-food card programme:
<http://www.renskroes.com/more-than-powerfood-2/>,
<https://www.instagram.com/p/BMCdvLAA-zy/?taken-by=renskroes>,
<https://www.instagram.com/p/BMMYzIvgNZy/?taken-by=renskroes>,
<https://www.instagram.com/p/BMDum4Gg8gc/?taken-by=renskroes>

Country Background & Strategy



Turkey has the 17th largest economy in the world with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of USD 799.54 billion. Female participation in the labour market is only 29.4 percent compared to 70.8 for men, and only 39 percent of adult women have received at least a secondary level of education compared to 60 percent of their male counterparts (source: UNDP). Turkey is currently under a state of emergency, following a failed coup attempt by a faction of the armed forces on 15 July 2016.

As of November 2016, the number of registered Syrian refugees in Turkey is 2,758,409, confirming Turkey's position as host to the highest number of Syrians in the world. While 247,437 refugees reside in 23 camps, the vast majority live in host communities. The Government has demonstrated leadership and generosity in providing for the refugees' humanitarian needs since the onset of the crisis. Since June 2011, a temporary protection regime has granted Syrians access to basic services such as health care and education. In January 2016, Turkey changed its Syrian visa policy to curb illegal entries, while still maintaining an open door policy. In October 2015, Turkey and the EU agreed on a Joint Action Plan to step up their cooperation on migration to tackle the refugee crisis. The Regulation on the Work Permits for Syrians was passed in January 2016.

WFP has been present in Turkey since 2012.

Population: **78 million**

2016 Human Development Index: **69 out of 188 (0.759)**

Income Level: **Upper middle**
GDP per capita **USD 10,515.**

Registered Refugees in Turkey: **3.1 million**

Current Donors (Alphabetical list)

Australia, Austria, European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Kuwait, Luxemburg, private donors, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Turkey, The United Kingdom and The United States of America.