



Electronic Food Card Programme

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2014



E-FOOD CARD PROGRAMME

The WFP response in Turkey marks the first instance where electronic vouchers have been utilized as an initial response at the onset of a humanitarian emergency. Since its inception in October 2012, the WFP/Turkish Red Crescent (KIZILAY) E-Food Card Programme has provided for over 104 million meals and rapidly increased beneficiary coverage from 12,000 in October 2012 to over 140,000 beneficiaries reached in February 2014. The E-Food Card Programme has proven successful in multiple ways. From an economic standpoint, the programme provides a high return on investment allowing for over 70 percent savings in food assistance in comparison to providing daily hot meals. Moreover, it provides the means for increased access to varied and nutritious foods sources and helps restore dignity and a degree of normalcy to beneficiaries' lives while directly benefiting the local economies.



WFP meets with the mukhtars of Ceylanpinar camp to explain the 60-20 modality and address questions regarding the programme

In addition to the US\$54 million transferred to Syrian beneficiaries through the e-food card programme since October 2012, WFP has contributed US\$187 million to the Turkish economy through procurement of commodities in-country in support of the Syria crisis and global WFP operations. Approximately 60 percent of foodstuffs procured in Turkey has directly supported the WFP Syria Regional Emergency Operation. Investment in Turkey has increased exponentially; procurement in 2013 doubled 2012 figures and the trend is ongoing.

From October 2012 through February 2014, WFP Turkey has received approximately US\$71.1 million from our generous partners: USA USAID/FFP, UK/DFID, Government of Germany, State of Kuwait, Government of Japan, Government of France, Government of Denmark, Government of Switzerland, Government of Turkey, Government of Canada, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Government of Netherlands, Government of Australia, Government of Sweden, ECHO and private donors.

SITUATION UPDATE

On 11 February, UNHCR reported that more than 20,000 Syrian refugees have arrived in Turkey since the start of the year in the biggest influx since early 2013. Over recent days more than 500 people have been arriving daily at official crossing points, sometimes as many as 1,000-2,000 daily. According to UNHCR's chief spokesperson, the recent influx appears to be spurred by the surge in fighting across the border in northern Syria, particularly in and around. About 1/3 of the influx, approximately 7,000 people have been accommodated in camps. Turkey opened its 22nd camp in Nusaybin in Sanliurfa governorate, in January. At the end of the February the reported number of refugees in camps had exceeded 220,000 and while registration continues for those living outside the camps and in urban areas, the number of those already registered or waiting for registration is reported to be approximately 642,000.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Throughout 2013, WFP greatly augmented its monitoring activities and harmonized processes with the regional monitoring and evaluation system. During the initial seven months of 2013, monitors collected outcome and process related data through post distribution monitoring (PDM) forms and used the information collected to ascertain key indicators such as the food consumption score (FCS).

From August 2013 onwards, the Turkey monitoring team adopted a harmonized set of tools promoted by the regional office which includes: PDMs applied at the household level; onsite monitoring checklists (OSM) filled by monitors when visiting participating shops and; a beneficiary contact monitoring questionnaire (BCM) completed as beneficiaries exit shops. As a result of monitoring in all camps where the e-food card programme is implemented, WFP has been able to accurately measure indicators that reveal the food security situation of beneficiaries in participating camps and is in the process of producing its first comprehensive monitoring and evaluation report.

In order to ascertain the sufficiency of food assistance in camps where WFP is operational, a Food Consumption Score (FCS) was generated. The FCS measures both the quantity and variety of the diet. Post distribution monitoring of households over the September to December 2013 period shows that the percentage of WFP beneficiaries with an acceptable food consumption level has reached 93 percent, and those with a poor and borderline food consumption level account for only 7 percent. This compares positively to the figures revealed by post-distribution monitoring exercises carried out during the March to August 2013 period which revealed that 90 percent of beneficiaries had an acceptable food consumption level and 10 percent had a poor and borderline food consumption level.

With regard to use of negative coping strategies such as reliance on less preferred foods, reduced number of meals, small portion sizes, restricting consumption of food by adults, etc, monitoring shows that the longer the use of coping strategies is inversely proportional to the time beneficiaries spend in the programme. Over time, a decreasing number of beneficiaries are resorting to food-based coping strategies. Within the first 6 months of arrival the coping strategy index is 16.3 amongst WFP beneficiaries, whereas after 12 months of arrival time, the coping strategy index is 11.7; the improved FCS and decreased coping strategy indices, indicate that the level and quality of food assistance are sufficient to meet basic needs across all camps implementing the WFP/TRC e-food card programme.

GRADUAL EXPANSION

On 24 January, the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a letter to WFP in support of the planned expansion of the WFP and Turkish Red Crescent (KIZILAY) food assistant programme to all camps hosting Syrian refugees in Turkey, in line with the agreement that WFP has reached with the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) of Turkey.

In response to the primary challenge of inadequate funding which has constrained programme expansion throughout 2013, the Government of Turkey proposed to cost-share the food ration to Syrians in camps whereby the WFP/TRC e-food card transfer would reduce from 80 to 60 Turkish liras (US\$30) and AFAD would give an amount of 20 Turkish liras (US\$10) per beneficiary per month for food purchases alone, thereby ensuring that each beneficiary will continue to receive 80 Turkish liras worth of food entitlement per month. AFAD will be uploading the 20 Turkish liras on its own electronic card.

WFP is currently working with TRC and AFAD to conduct assessments in camps, trainings for beneficiaries, shopkeepers and camp management to ascertain that programme prerequisites are in place for a programme expansion. WFP has continued to provide assistance at the same level of Turkish liras in the fourteen camps where it is currently operational (80 Turkish liras) in order to give the Government sufficient time to meet programme pre-requisites for the launch of the cost sharing modality with AFAD (WFP/KIZILAY 60 Turkish liras, AFAD 20 Turkish liras), while at the same time expanding to a new camp under the new cost-sharing modality.



CEYLANPINAR

WFP expanded into its 15th camp—Ceylanpinar—at the beginning of February piloting the 60/20 modality agreed with AFAD. WFP completed its first upload onto the e-food cards on 3 February, thereby adding 20,500 beneficiaries to the programme and bringing the total caseload to approximately 140,000 beneficiaries. Feedback from Ceylanpinar has been overwhelmingly positive and the trainings to camp management and beneficiaries were essential for the smooth transition to the new assistance modality. Assessments of other camps are ongoing.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

On 30 January, in coordination with TRC and local camp management, WFP welcomed a French delegation of three parliamentarians to both Nizip 1 and Nizip 2 camps. The delegation was given a tour of the camps and the opportunity to see the E-Food Card Programme in action, as well as, to discuss the programme and camp life with beneficiaries. The delegation expressed appreciation and congratulated WFP and TRC on the efficiency, innovative characteristics and positive outcomes of the programme. In the coming weeks, WFP will be facilitating programme visits for donors to the programme from ECHO, USAID and DFID.

JOINT NUTRITION SURVEY WITH UNICEF

In the coming months, WFP will support UNICEF, who in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, plan to conduct a joint nutrition survey for Syrian children aged 6 to 59 months and pregnant and lactating women in host communities. This survey will help establish the nutrition status of vulnerable Syrians in host communities to better inform planning for potential nutrition, health and micronutrient related interventions in Turkey. The survey will target the Gaziantep and Sanliurfa governorates in particular. This endeavor represents the first nutritional survey aimed at outside camp populations in Turkey. In addition, camp populations will also be surveyed, however, on a smaller scale to the non-camp survey sample.

FOOD, CASH AND VOUCHER NON-FOOD ITEM WORKING GROUP

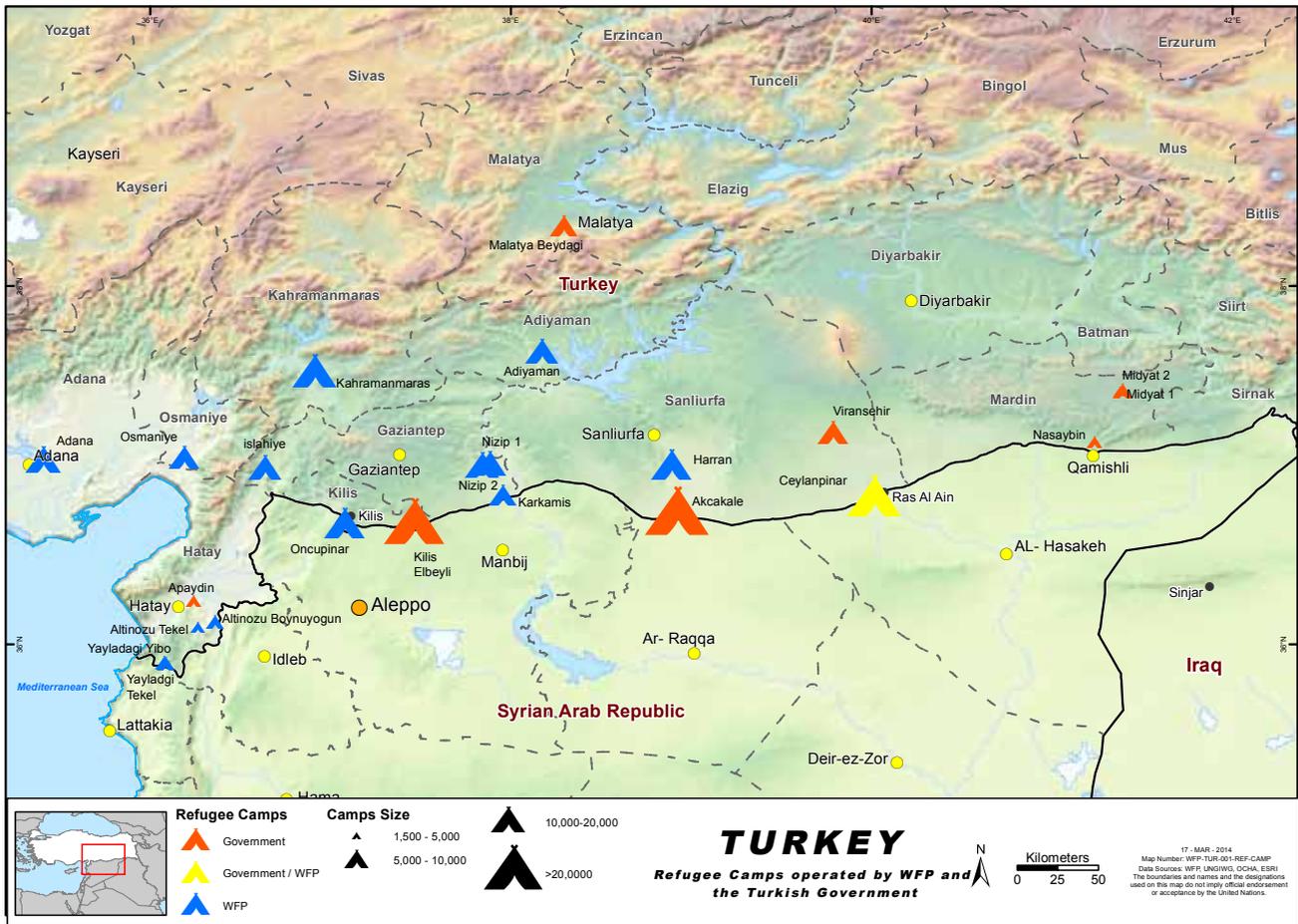
In late January, the first Food, Cash and Voucher, Non-Food Item Working Group was co-chaired by WFP and UNHCR in Gaziantep. The working group brings together actors, INGOs, NGOs and UN agencies, looking to serve non-camp populations with food and non-food item assistance. Initial focus was placed on identifying assessments and responses of participant agencies to date, thereby updating 3W information for related sectors. The working group is an excellent forum for an exchange of technical information. Immediate plans include producing guidelines to facilitate a more harmonized approach to cash and voucher assistance inside Turkey.

FUNDING AND SHORTFALLS

In line with new WFP external reporting requirements, a new pipeline—the actualized project pipeline—has been developed. This pipeline is a more timely representation of our needs and takes into consideration the most updated situation changes on the ground. The actualized project pipeline for Turkey assumes 120,000 beneficiaries in January, 140,000 in February and March, 220,000 beneficiaries in April and May, and 300,000 beneficiaries from June 2014. The February and March ration amount will be US\$40 for existing camps and US\$30 for Ceylanpinar camp. The expansion plan takes into consideration both



funding and readiness of present and prospective camps to institute the program. The total shortfall in 2014 per the actualized pipeline is approximately US\$86 million. Should the RRP6 figures of 300,000 beneficiaries per month be met, the total monthly requirement would be US\$11 million.



The programme in Ceylanpinar pilots the new cost-sharing mechanism whereby WFP provides 60 Turkish liras per person per month on the WFP/TRC e-food card and AFAD provides 20 Turkish liras for food allowance on their e-card.



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