



WFP/Laure Chadraoui

Turkey

Fact Sheet

Syria Crisis Response



World Food Programme

While the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency of Government of Turkey (AFAD) has registered over 220,000 Syrian refugees in 22 camps located in 10 provinces, the Government estimates that the total Syrian population in Turkey exceeds 800,000.

WFP Operations

In July 2012, the Government of Turkey officially requested WFP's support to assist Syrians residing in camps. In coordination with the Government, WFP conducted a feasibility study resulting in the implementation of the e-Food Card Programme to support the food security needs of camp populations. With no established presence in the country prior to the crisis, WFP set up new offices in Ankara and Gaziantep and a field presence in Hatay.

In partnership with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) and in close coordination with the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency of Turkey (AFAD), the e-Food Card Programme was launched in October 2012. With the e-cards automatically uploaded each month and beneficiaries able to redeem the card value at any time throughout the month, the programme facilitates greater and easier access to varied and nutritious food supplies; helps to restore dignity and a degree of normalcy to beneficiaries' lives; and also directly benefits the local economy.

Beneficiaries are provided with one electronic card per household, uploaded with 80 Turkish liras (roughly equivalent to US\$40) per family member per month redeemable in selected shops to procure food commodities, excluding forbidden food items such as tobacco and alcohol. Since its inception, the WFP/TRC e-Food Card Programme has provided for over 129 million meals and rapidly increased beneficiary coverage from 12,000 in October 2012 to around 140,000 beneficiaries reached in March 2014. WFP monitoring results show that Syrians in WFP/TRC supported camps are generally food secure, with 90 percent having acceptable food consumption scores and undertaking low levels of negative coping strategies.

The e-Food Card Programme has also proven successful 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. Over US\$58 million has been transferred to Syrian beneficiaries through the e-Food Card Programme since October 2012, resulting in a positive economic impact on local host communities as 100 percent of the funds transferred to beneficiaries are spent in shops that are owned, managed and run by local retailers. Moreover, WFP has contributed US\$266.6 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.



Future Commitments

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. In this proposed modality, the WFP/TRC e-food card transfer would reduce from 80 to 60 Turkish liras and AFAD would give an amount of 20 Turkish liras 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 continues to provide assistance at the same level of 80 Turkish liras in the 14 camps where it has been operational since 2013 in order to give the Government sufficient time to meet programme pre-requisites for the launch of the cost sharing modality in these 14 camps. At the same time, WFP has been 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. As

a result, WFP has expanded into its 15th and 16th camps, Ceylanpinar and Midyat, since the beginning of 2014 where the new cost-sharing modality is implemented.

WFP's efforts to move forward with the expansion plan to all 22 camps are ongoing in close coordination with TRC and AFAD. Moreover, WFP is ready to launch a pilot programme to provide food assistance to vulnerable Syrians outside of the camps, if requested by the Government.



Challenges

The expansion plan takes into consideration both funding and readiness of present and prospective camps to institute the program. Resource mobilization remains one of the key challenges and may affect the ability of WFP to expand to all 22 camps.

