



E-FOOD CARD PROGRAMME

The WFP response in Turkey is the first humanitarian response that has utilized electronic vouchers from the onset of an emergency. Since October 2012, WFP/Turkish Red Crescent (KIZILAY) E-Food Card Programme has provided for over 129 million meals and rapidly increased beneficiary coverage from 12,000 in October 2012 to over 143,000 beneficiaries reached in April 2014. The programme is highly successful in various ways--it has allowed for over 70 percent savings (in comparison to the provision of hot meals) and increased beneficiaries' access to nutritious food of their own choosing.

In addition to the US\$63 million transferred to Syrian beneficiaries through the e-food card programme since October 2012 to April 2014, WFP has contributed US\$241 million to the Turkish economy through procurement of commodities in-country in support of the Syria crisis and WFP operations around the globe. Investment in Turkey has increased exponentially; procurement in 2013 doubled 2012 figures and the trend is ongoing.

From October 2012 through April 2014, WFP Turkey has received approximately US\$98.6 million from our generous partners. In the month of March specifically, WFP received two contributions: GBP 2 million (US\$3.33 million) from UK/ Department for International Development, enough to cover the monthly assistance to approximately 69,800 beneficiaries—nearly half of WFP's March caseload; and EUR500,000 (US\$678,400) from the Government of France, enough to cover the monthly assistance to approximately 12,200 beneficiaries. In April, WFP received US\$3 million from the State of Kuwait, which can cover approximately 62,800 beneficiaries for one month.

WFP's donors include: USA USAID/Food for Peace, United Kingdom/Department for International Development, 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.

CAMP ASSESSMENTS

As per the Government of Turkey's request for assistance to Syrian refugees in all camps, WFP/TRC, in conjunction with AFAD have expanded to two new camps, Ceylanpinar and Midyat, in April under a new cost-sharing modality, 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, therefore, maintaining the food entitlement at a total of 80 Turkish liras per beneficiary per month. As of April WFP operates in 16 of 22 camps in Turkey.

Joint WFP/TRC teams assessed four camps--Malatya, Akçakale, Nusaybin and Viransehir-- to determine the readiness of camp infrastructure to join the E-Food Card Programme. Considering assessment findings, WFP with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) expanded to Midyat camp at the beginning of April. Expanding to Midyat increased the caseload by approximately 3,300 beneficiaries per month, thereby providing food assistance to a total of just under 145,000 beneficiaries per month through the WFP/TRC E-Food Card Programme. WFP worked with TRC and AFAD to conduct trainings for beneficiaries, shopkeepers and camp management in order to ensure a smooth transition. In May, WFP will expand the programme to three new camps—Malatya, Kilis Elbeyli and Akçakale and will initiate the cost-sharing agreement with AFAD in all camps being assisted by the WFP/TRC programme.



WFP/TRC and donor visibility throughout participating camp markets.

MONITORING

The WFP monitoring team in Turkey is composed of nine field staff, covering sixteen camps at least twice a month, visiting all contracted shops, and interviewing beneficiaries in the framework of post-distribution or on-site monitoring. Monitoring for Yayladagi 1 and 2 camps, however, was suspended for a little over a month (mid-March to mid-April) due to security concerns stemming from violence along the border. During monitoring visits, prices are assessed closely in participating shops and compared to prices in non-participating shops located in the closest urban settings.

High prices continue to be a main concerns voiced by beneficiaries across most camps. Throughout March/April, WFP field monitors received positive feedback in Adana, Osmaniye and Kilis camps regarding the reduction of prices thanks to WFP and TRC field staff efforts. In order to support price monitoring efforts and address beneficiary concerns, WFP, TRC and camp management are in the process of establishing price monitoring committees in all camps where the programme is operational. The price monitoring committees will have representatives from the relevant agencies—WFP, TRC, AFAD and camp management—as well as shop owners, shopkeepers and beneficiaries. The committee will look at prices of key commodities in the food basket and ascertain that prices are fair across camps and comparable to prices in city centres in order to ensure the sufficiency of the food entitlement. Committees have thus far been established in Adiyaman and Kahramanmaras camps.

Feedback from Ceylanpinar and Midyat camps, where the cost-sharing mechanism with AFAD is being piloted, has been overwhelmingly positive. WFP will expand to all camps under this modality throughout 2014 as resources and camp preparedness permit.

In Islahiye camp, large communal ovens have been set up for beneficiaries' use, free of charge. This system is estimated to save 250,000 Turkish liras per month on the camp electricity bills. Similar initiatives are planned for Osmaniye and Adana camps.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Throughout March and April, WFP Head of Operations in Turkey, Mr. Jean-Yves Lequime, and the WFP team welcomed representatives from the Emergency Nutrition Network, ECHO, USAID, DFID and the Government of Canada.

On 8 April, Mr. Lequime and the WFP field team accompanied His Excellency Mr. Richard Moore, British Ambassador to Turkey and the Humanitarian Team Leader for the Syria Crisis Unit of the Department of International Development (DFID) to Islahiye tented-camp in Gaziantep.

On 27 April 2014, German President Joachim Gauck and his wife (President of UNICEF National Committee) visited Kahramanmaras Camp that hosts more than 15,000 Syrians. The President praised the support provided by the Government of Turkey to Syrian refugees, and the positive results of the E-Food Card Programme.



British Ambassador to Turkey, His Excellency Richard Moore with Head of WFP Country Operations, Mr Jean-Yves Lequime, visiting Islahiye tented camp in April.

WFP continues to co-chair the Food, Non-Food Items, Cash and Voucher Working Group in Gaziantep. The working group brings together INGOs, NGOs, UN agencies and other actors and looks to provide coordination and technical support for programmes serving non-camp populations with vital food and NFI assistance.

FOOD SECURITY OUTLOOK

Looming drought in Syria is likely to push millions more into hunger and exacerbate the refugee and internal displacement crisis. Given drought over the winter, Syria is heading for a record low harvest of staple products, such as wheat. Low harvests and damaged infrastructure will pose an even greater challenge for food security in the coming months. Turkey's wheat harvest, similarly, has dropped by at least 14 percent due to low rainfall and remains under serious threat of further drought; this is likely to result in nationwide increased food prices. Coupled with fluctuations in the value of the Turkish lira, which may increase food prices more, there is a risk of reduced purchasing power of beneficiaries' entitlement.

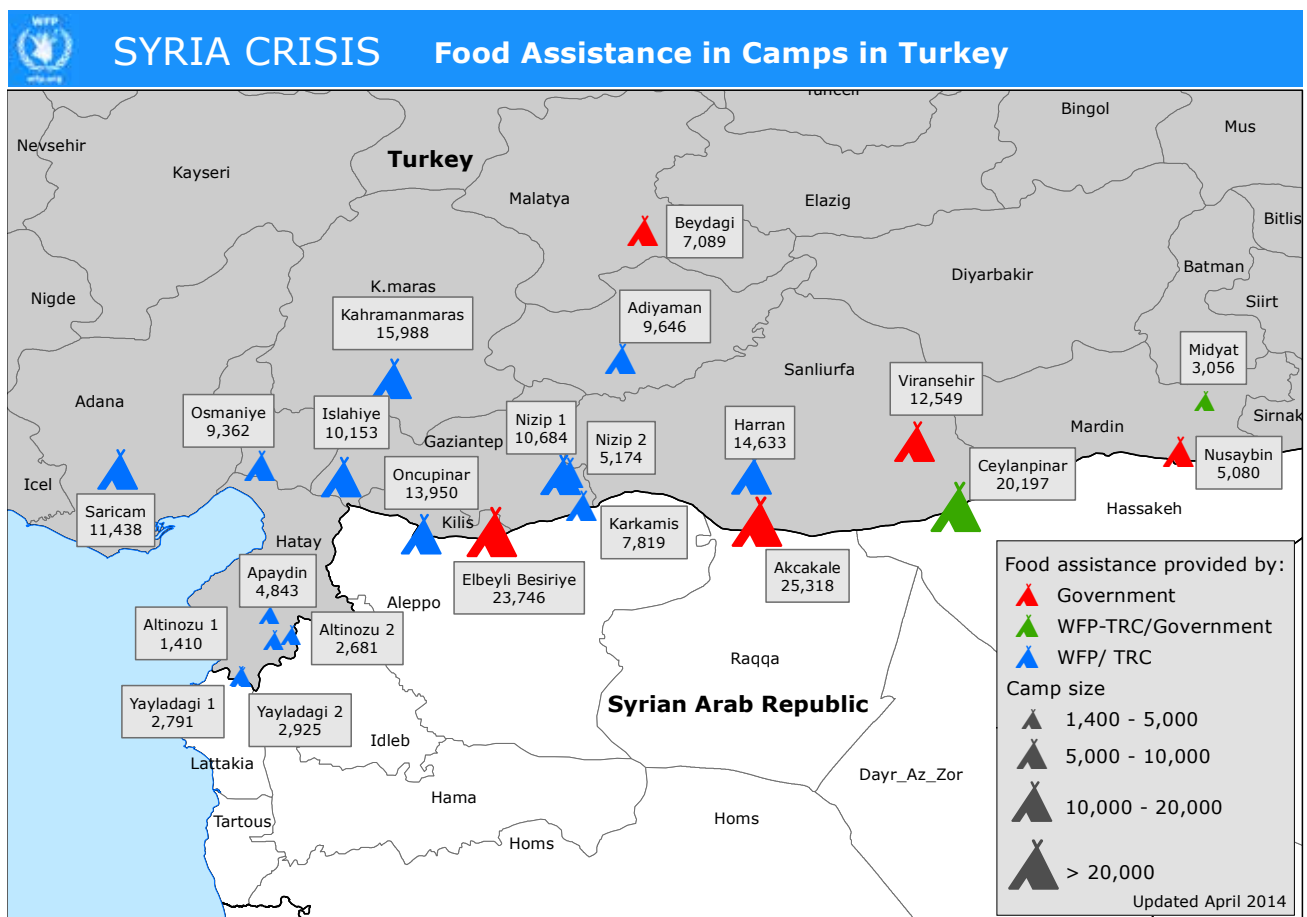
FUNDING AND SHORTFALLS

The operational pipeline for Turkey assumes 220,000 in May and June and 300,000 beneficiaries from July 2014 (caseloads for July onwards are based on Regional Response Plan (RRP) targets and shall be amended according to the evolving, actual needs). The ration amount provided from January to April 2014, was 80 Turkish liras per person per month in all camps except in Ceylanpinar and Midyat camps, where the cost sharing agreement with the government is being piloted, (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).

In order to support the programme reaching 220,000 beneficiaries, the total monthly requirement is US\$6.7 million. The Operational Pipeline Report shows a break in mid-June for July with a total of US\$6.5 million to be adjusted to reflect actual caseload and needs. The total operational pipeline shortfall in 2014 is approximately US\$60 million.



Beneficiaries in Osmaniye camp carry food stuffs purchased with the WFP/TRC E-Food card in camp markets.



In Ceylanpınar and Midyat camps, the programme 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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