



World Food Programme

REGIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATION 200433 Food assistance to Syrian populations in TURKEY

Requirement: US\$7,163,402 Resourced: US\$6,654,619 Shortfall: US\$508,783

Background: The arrival of Syrian nationals in considerable numbers started in June 2011 and has continued with an ever upward trend in 2012. As of 10 November, according to the Turkish Government, there are over 115,000 Syrians registered and accommodated in 14 Turkish camps in seven provinces. The new arrivals are referred to new camps in Gaziantep, Nizip-1 and Adiyaman, unless they have immediate family members in other camps.

Since the start of the unrest in the Syrian Arab Republic and the consequent influx of Syrians into Turkey, the Government has formally declared and maintained an open border policy. Given the protection needs of Syrians who have arrived in Turkey, the Government officially adopted a temporary protection regime in October 2011 for all Syrian nationals crossing the border.

The core elements of the temporary protection regime are:

- open border policy with admission to the territory for those seeking protection;
- protection against forcible returns (non-refoulement);
- access to basic reception arrangements, where immediate needs are addressed.

The Turkish government has been providing a high standard of assistance to Syrians hosted in their camps at the cost of some US\$400 million to date.

WFP in Turkey: WFP did not have a programmatic presence in Turkey before this operation, though it did have a procurement and representation office in Ankara which closed at the end of 2011. WFP opened an operational office in Ankara in July 2012 in the UN house and the WFP Office in Ankara is now being set up. WFP has identified office space in Gaziantep and is working to establish a presence in the city to oversee operations in Kilis and Hatay as the programme expands.

Thanks to contributions from the governments of USA, Switzerland, Japan and UK, US\$6.7 million has been resourced to date towards the emergency operation in Turkey, leaving a budget shortfall of US\$508,783.





WFP's Response to the Syria Situation

The Government of Turkey officially requested WFP support to assist Syrian nationals in late May 2012. A feasibility study was conducted by WFP in coordination with the Government of Turkey in July and it was recommended that a market based voucher programme be implemented to support the food needs of Syrians living in camps within Turkey.

WFP and the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS) officially launched an Electronic Food Card Programme in Kilis camp in mid-October 2012 and have so far distributed almost 2,000 e-cards to cover the needs of more than 12,200 beneficiaries. The programme will expand to camps in Hatay on 17 November to cover the needs of more than 25,000 Syrians in total.

The Electronic Food Card Programme supports Syrian families to purchase sufficient nutritious food items to meet household needs. Families receive an Electronic Food Card that is loaded with 80TL per family member per month. The cards operate in the terminals of shops selected by WFP, TRCS and the Government; this allows for oversight and monitoring to ensure that sufficient quantities of nutritious food is available and purchased by households.

Challenges

Increasing numbers of Syrians crossing into Turkey: As of 10 November, the Government of Turkey reported that there are close to 115,000 Syrians registered and accommodated in Turkish camps, including those temporarily staying in schools and hospitals. Turkey is currently receiving more than 1,000 Syrians per day.

In addition, there are a reported 20,000 Syrians waiting to cross the border into Turkey despite daily admissions. TRCS is providing humanitarian assistance (food, water and medical assistance) at the zero point of the border. Currently, there are 14 camps in Turkey and three more

are being constructed. When all planned camps are complete, Turkey will have the capacity to host 130,000 people.

Way forward

WFP Turkey had initially planned to reach 30,000 Syrians by the end of 2012, however a request was made by the Government in early November to expand the programme to reach all of the camps in 2013. WFP is undertaking joint planning with the Government and TRCS to develop a phased expansion plan.

Expanding the Electronic Food Card system requires camps to be installed with household cooking facilities. WFP is working with the Government, TRCS and partners, including UNHCR, to ensure these are installed.

Budget revision number 4 of the Regional EMOP, which incorporates the caseload in Turkey into the operation, was approved by the Project Review Committee: the total cost for the operation in Turkey covering 30,000 people is US\$7.2 million and it is almost fully funded.

