

WFP SAYS NO to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

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	1 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	461m	361m	-

*December 2016 (including pledges and solid forecasts)

Assistance to vulnerable Syrian refugees and host communities in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey PRRO 200987 (Jan. 2017-Dec. 2018)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received	6 Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	481m	313m	18.9m

*January -June 2017

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 2.8 million Syrians, 90 percent of whom live in communities. Many of them are resorting to negative coping strategies including debt, 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 basic necessities such as food, rent, medicine and warm clothing for winter. Families will be assessed to see if they meet the ESSN criteria, prioritising families led by women and elderly, or with family members living with disability. Families with many dependents, such as children or 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 returning a degree of normality and dignity.

Main Photo WFP Says No to Gender Based Violence is part of the UN Secretary-General's campaign to End Violence against Women (UNITE)

Highlights

- On 28 November, WFP together with the Ministry of Family and Social Policies and the Turkish Red Crescent rolled 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 December, WFP will assist 289,000 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 142,000 are hosted in camps.

Building on the hospitality and generosity of the Turkish people and Government, the programme will promote social cohesion, and positively impact host communities by injecting money into local economies. The ESSN closely aligns with existing national social assistance programmes and works through government welfare centres.

Meanwhile, in November, WFP and TRC continued assisting vulnerable Syrians with the e-food card programme, reaching 289,000 people. In the cities of Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Hatay, Kilis, Karamanmaraş, Islahiye and Nizip, 147,000 vulnerable Syrians living in communities receive 62 Turkish Liras (USD 22.5)* on their cards every month. An additional 142,000 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 of the people assisted and efficient use of limited resources. People 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.

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

In Numbers

3.1 m refugees registered in Turkey

139,000 refugees assisted in camps

146,000 refugees assisted in communities

People Assisted
November 2016



Since 2012, WFP has injected USD 199.6 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.

Operational Updates

After being piloted in Ankara and Sivas, the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) rolled out nation-wide on 28 November. WFP teams were deployed to monitor the rollout across 18 provinces and 55 districts, where they visited Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations (SASFs) and TRC-managed Service Centres, where applications are taken. As of 2 December, the Ministry of Family and Social Policies (MoFSP) informed that 8,109 applications have been received with tens of thousands of application forms handed out. These applications will be reviewed to determine eligibility in the next few weeks. The European Union is funding the ESSN with a contribution of EUR 348 million.

Eligible families will receive electronic cash cards loaded with 100 Turkish Liras (about EUR 30/USD 36) per family member every month.

On 17-18 November in Ankara, a training of trainers was conducted for 39 SASFs by WFP-TRC- MoFSP with a focus on districts with over 20,000 refugees. The 90 attendees were very engaged.

Sensitisation leaflets, brochures and animated movies explaining the programme were prepared in Arabic and Turkish to ensure both refugee and Turkish populations understand the programme.

Funding of some NGO programmes is expiring. WFP and TRC are working with NGOs to ensure continued assistance to the vulnerable people they are helping. This is an interim measure for the transition period while the ESSN is rolled out and coping with a surge in applications.

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 also collaborates closely 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>
- See WFP's Twitters on power of partnerships and ESSN's essential help to refugees. <https://twitter.com/WFP/status/804298972617723904>; <https://twitter.com/WFP/status/803552961645445120>
- Watch the ESSN roll-out pieces on [TRT](#), and [NTV](#).

Country Background & Strategy



Turkey has 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 256,294 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

Turkey's economy: **17th largest**
economy in the world.

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.

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