



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	3 Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	461m	361m	-

*October - December 2016 (including pledges and solid forecasts)
** New project under development

Since 2012, WFP has joined forces with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) to assist vulnerable Syrian refugees through an e-food card that can be redeemed against nutritious foods in local supermarkets.

Turkey now hosts the largest refugee population in the world, including 2.7 million Syrians, 90 percent of whom live in communities. Many of them are resorting to negative coping strategies including indebtedness, 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 the basic necessities from food and rent, to medicine and warm clothing for winter. Families will be assessed to see if they meet the ESSN criteria, prioritising families headed by women and the elderly, or with family members living with disability. Families with many dependents, such as children or the 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 giving them a degree of normality.

Building on the hospitality and generosity of the Turkish people and its government, the programme will promote social cohesion, and positively impact host communities by injecting money into local economies.

The programme, developed and implemented in close partnership with TRC, will build upon existing voucher schemes and the expertise of the Ministry of Family and

Main Credit: WFP/Jonny Hogg

Photo Caption: Ramadan and his son Ahmad in Sanliurfa, Turkey.

Highlights

- WFP, together with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) and the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, is preparing to roll-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).
- WFP is currently assisting 282,000 vulnerable Syrian refugees with its e-food card programme, jointly implemented with TRC in the South-East of Turkey. 132,000 of them live in host communities while 150,000 are hosted in camps.

Social Policies under the coordination of the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD). This will help ensure that the ESSN closely aligns with existing national social assistance programmes.

Meanwhile, WFP and TRC are currently assisting 282,000 vulnerable Syrians with the e-food card programme. In Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Hatay, Kilis and Karamanmaras, 132,000 vulnerable Syrians living in communities receive 62 Turkish Liras (USD 22.5)* on their cards every month. An additional 150,000 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 and efficient use of limited resources. The people assisted 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.

Since 2012, WFP has injected USD 189 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 60 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.

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

In Numbers

3 million refugees registered in Turkey

150,000 refugees assisted in camps

132,000 refugees assisted in communities

People Assisted
September 2016



September 2016

Operational Updates

- In September, ECHO awarded EUR 348 million to WFP to roll-out the ESSN, a new type of assistance to the most socio-economically vulnerable refugees, together with TRC and the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, a collaboration which is innovative in scale and ambition. This is the largest humanitarian programme ever supported by ECHO.
- A workshop with the Ministry, AFAD, the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM), TRC, ECHO, UNICEF, UNHCR and WFP was held in early September to commence technical preparations for the ESSN implementation.
- A call centre which will cover refugees' enquiries, complaints and feedback, appeals and referrals and allow WFP and TRC to conduct remote Post-Distribution Monitoring (rPDM), is expected to be fully operational in October upon providing a training to call centre operators.
- Social Solidarity and Assistance Foundations (SASF) offices together with dedicated service centres will receive ESSN applications. Ten service centres are currently being established.
- On 21 September, the first round of rPDM commenced for the e-food card programme. A random sample of 400 off-camp households in five provinces were reached by phone by the end of the month. The exercise was piloting the modality of remote monitoring, which is to be used for Pre-Assessment Baseline and PDM outcome data collection during the ESSN implementation. It allows reaching a larger number of households in a short time, reducing the number of staff and logistics required to collect the data through physical visits. It further allows for broader coverage across the country from one central place.

Challenges

Given the wide range of vulnerabilities among refugees living in Turkey, WFP is working closely with partners to ensure those most in need of assistance are targeted as efficiently and quickly as possible.

Partnerships

WFP and TRC are working at the central and field levels in collaboration with Turkish authorities, including AFAD, DGMM, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, SASF, and the Governor's offices.

Story worth telling

- Read the response of WFP's Executive Director Ertharin Cousin to the signing of the ESSN contract: <http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/european-union-funds-assistance-through-wfp-assist-one-million-refugees-turkey>
- 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>
- Some wonderful posts on Instagram from David Frenkiel, the Swedish blogger WFP hosted in Hatay, as part of ECHO donation to the e-food card programme: <https://www.instagram.com/gkstories/>

Country Background & Strategy



Turkey has the 17th largest economy in the world with 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 August 2016, the number of registered Syrian refugees in Turkey is 2,733,655, confirming Turkey's position as host to the highest number of Syrians in the world. While 254,938 refugees reside in 22 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.

Registered Refugees in Turkey: **3 million**

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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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/turkey

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