



WFP Turkey Country Brief

WFP Assistance

Turkey, Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP)

Total Requirements (in USD)

6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) *

January – December 2018

496 m

17.5 m**

*Net funding requirements for the first six months of 2018
**refers to the in-camp programme only.

GENDER MARKER 2A PRRO 200987

Turkey has the largest refugee population of any country in the world with over 3.5 million, including over 3.2 million Syrians. Over 90 percent live in cities and villages across the country. Struggling to make ends meet, many are forced into debt, to reduce the number of meals they eat, or to take their children out of school to work.

WFP partners with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC/Kizilay), the Turkish Government, and European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) to deliver the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN), a cash assistance programme helping vulnerable refugees cover basic needs such as food, rent, utilities, medicine, and clothing.

Each family supported by the ESSN receives a debit card, loaded monthly with 120 Turkish Liras (USD 30) per person. This can be used to withdraw money from ATMs or to pay in local shops, granting freedom of choice and returning a degree of normality to beneficiaries' lives. The ESSN prioritises women living alone, families headed by a single parent or the elderly, with members living with disability, or with many dependents, such as children or the elderly. Launched at the end of 2016, the ESSN supports more than one million vulnerable refugees.

The programme leverages the existing WFP-TRC e-card scheme and the expertise of the Ministry of Family and Social Policies (MoFSP), under the coordination of Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD). The ESSN closely aligns with existing national social assistance programmes and works through government welfare centres. Building on the hospitality and generosity of the Turkish people and Government, the programme promotes social cohesion and benefits host communities by injecting money into local economies.

Through innovative partnerships with international and local actors, bridging the gap between humanitarian and development interventions, and its efficient delivery system, the ESSN embodies the spirit of the World Humanitarian Summit and the "Grand Bargain", a global agreement between more than 30 of the biggest donors and aid providers signed in Turkey in 2016.

Highlights

- In November, WFP Turkey fine-tuned its proposal to European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) for the second phase of the Emergency Social Safety Net programme. The proposed plan is to continue the programme to January 2019, targeting 1.3 million vulnerable refugees with TRY 120 (USD 30) per month, as well as periodic top-ups to cover their basic needs.
- WFP supported 140,693 very vulnerable refugees in camps in November. This vital support is planned to continue through 2018, and WFP is working with partners to ensure the funding required. However, no contributions for 2018 have been confirmed to date, and funds are urgently needed.

WFP SAYS NO to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

In 2012, WFP joined forces with TRC to assist vulnerable Syrian refugees in camps through an e-card, topped up monthly and redeemable against nutritious foods in contracted shops. This marked the first instance in which WFP used electronic vouchers at the onset of an emergency response. In 2015, the programme was extended to vulnerable Syrians outside camps, a largely underserved community, paving the way for the ESSN.

Since 2012, WFP has injected USD 461 million into the Turkish economy through cash-based transfers. WFP also has a history of large-scale commodity procurement in Turkey to support its global operations. More than USD 1.65 billion worth of commodities has been procured in Turkey since 2011. Of this, more than USD 536 million worth of commodities has been used for emergency food assistance in WFP's Syria regional refugee response since 2012.

Operational Updates

By 27 November, 380,549 applications to the ESSN had been received, representing more than 1.9 million people. Around 3,500 applications were submitted per week in November. Ninety-nine percent have been processed, and so far, 54 percent of assessed applications are eligible.

In November, ESSN payments were transferred to 189,589 households (totalling 1,122,246 persons). The average eligible household size is 5.9 persons. Beneficiary households received the second periodic top-up in November, varying from TRY 50 to TRY 250 according to household size, aimed at easing the higher per-person costs in small households.

WFP field staff have monitored 528 Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation (SASFs) offices, 18 Service Centres (SCs), and 385 Halkbank branches in 593 districts in 79 provinces, with many visited multiple times since the programme launched.

In Numbers

142,000 refugees assisted in camps

1,122,000 refugees assisted by the ESSN

People Assisted
November 2017

52%



48%



November 2017

The final report from the first round of a Social Cohesion Survey has been published, and shows refugees generally have a strong sense of gratitude to the Turkish people and Government. Turkish sentiment towards refugees is polarised, with economic issues appearing to be contentious. The report makes a case for further accurate communication of information to host communities to correct misunderstandings and misperceptions surrounding refugees.

The Round One report of the Comprehensive Vulnerability Mapping Exercise has been published, and shows that the ESSN's targeting systems have selected the poorer applicants. It also shows that non-applicants to the ESSN are worse-off by several indicators. The main reason for non-application is shown to be difficulties in registering with the Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM).

In addition, 140,693 vulnerable Syrians living in camps in the southeast of Turkey continued to receive TRY 50 (USD 13) per person per month to be spent on food in November. In-camp price monitoring during November showed the average food basket cost in WFP-contracted shops was TRY 69.7. AFAD provides an additional TRY 50, which can be spent on both food and non-food items.

Analysis of in-camp monitoring data from Q3 was completed in November. The data shows that the proportion of refugees in WFP-supported camps with acceptable levels of food consumption has increased since Q1 and stands at 96 percent. Dietary diversity in the camps is relatively high. Also, in 88 percent of beneficiary households, women are involved in decision-making on the use of the assistance.

Partnerships

WFP and TRC work at the central and field levels in collaboration with Turkish authorities, including the Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD), the Ministry of Interior's Directorates General of Migration Management and Population and Citizenship Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Family and Social Policies, Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations, and Governors' offices. Several agencies participate in the ESSN's Governing Board, co-chaired by AFAD and ECHO. An ESSN Task Force co-chaired by WFP and TRC ensures coordination with UN agencies and NGOs.

Story Worth Telling

The ESSN is "a more dignified way of helping people", WFP Country Director Nils Grede told Anadolu Agency in November. Read the full story [here](#).



The WFP Country Director meets ESSN beneficiaries in Gaziantep.

Country Background & Strategy



A G20 country, Turkey has a large and diverse economy. Gross National Income per capita is USD 9,950. The country is currently under a state of emergency, following a failed coup attempt in July 2016.

As of October 2017, the number of refugees in Turkey is over 3.5 million, confirming Turkey's position as host to the highest number of refugees in the world. While around 230,000 refugees reside in camps located in the southeast, the vast majority live in host communities all around the country. The Government has demonstrated leadership and generosity in providing for the needs of the populations affected by the Syrian crisis. Since June 2011, a temporary protection regime has granted Syrians access to basic services such as health care and education. Turkey officially maintains an open-door policy for Syrians although measures are in place to curb entries since January 2016. A Regulation on the Work Permits for Syrians was passed in January 2016 with around 26,000 work permits granted to Syrians in 2016 and 2017.

In response to the migration crisis which led hundreds of thousands to undertake perilous journeys on the Mediterranean, Turkey and the EU agreed in March 2016 to set up a EUR 3 billion Facility for Refugees in Turkey to fund humanitarian assistance to refugees in Turkey.

WFP has been present in Turkey since 2012.

Population: **78 million**

2016 Human Development Index: **71 out of 188**

Income Level: **Upper middle**
GDP per capita: **USD 10,515**

Turkey's economy: **18th largest economy in the world**

Current Donors (Alphabetical list)

Australia, Denmark, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), France, Germany, Japan, Kuwait, the Republic of Korea, and USAID.

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