



# WFP Turkey Country Brief

## WFP Assistance

Assistance to Vulnerable Syrian Populations in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt Affected by Conflict in Syria Regional PRRO 200987 (Jan. 2017 to Dec. 2018)	Turkey Total Requirements (in USD)	Turkey Total Received (in USD)	Turkey Oct-Mar 2017 Net Funding Requirements (in USD) *
	985 m	432 m	126.7

\*including confirmed pledges and solid forecasts

**GENDER MARKER 2A**  PRRO 200987

Turkey has the largest refugee population of any country in the world with over 3.3 million, of which more than 3 million are Syrian. 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) and the Turkish Government to deliver the ECHO-funded 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 33) 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. 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, are prioritised. Launched at the end of 2016, the ESSN supports some 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 September 2017, the ESSN programme reached the milestone of assisting more than one million vulnerable refugees with 120 Turkish Liras each of cash assistance. WFP's support to refugees in camps reached more than 144,000 people.
- WFP Turkey welcomed a mission from key partner, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), on 18-22 September. Three teams visited sites across the country with representation from the Government of Turkey and the Turkish Red Crescent to review how the ESSN is working and what remaining obstacles need to be addressed by those involved in the programme.

As early as 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 living outside camps, a largely underserved community, paving the way for the ESSN.

Since 2012, WFP has injected USD 386 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. Almost 64 percent of these commodities have been used for emergency food assistance in WFP's emergency response in Iraq and within Syria and the region, including surrounding countries hosting refugees.

## Operational Updates

By 29 September, 351,772 applications to the ESSN had been received, representing more than 1.76 million people. The number of applications per week was around 3,500 in September. 98 percent have been processed.

In September, ESSN payments were transferred to 169,398 households (totalling 1,010,894 persons). The average eligible household size has decreased slightly from 6.0 in August to 5.97 in September, and the current eligibility rate for applications is 51 percent.

WFP field staff have monitored 476 Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations (SASFs), 18 Service Centres (SCs), and 254 Halkbank branches in 502 districts and 79 provinces, with many visited multiple times since the programme launched.

## In Numbers

~144,000 refugees assisted in camps

~1,011,000 refugees assisted by the ESSN

People Assisted  
September 2017



A major joint monitoring mission with ESSN partners to the west, east, and south of Turkey on 18-22 September highlighted the progress of the ESSN programme while identifying key areas for continued work, including the issue of registrations, which can prevent refugees from applying for ESSN assistance in some circumstances.

A Comprehensive Vulnerability and Mapping Exercise showed that approximately 70 percent of those who did not apply for ESSN had registration issues. Five percent indicated that they were not aware of the ESSN.

A survey of those receiving ESSN assistance revealed that family, friends and neighbours were the top channels of information on issues important to refugees, followed by television and Facebook/social media. WFP can use this data to plan communications with affected people so that those most in need are aware of the assistance available.

More than one thousand referrals have been made by WFP field teams, Service Centres and Call Centres to TRC Community Centres management team and other service providers. Moreover, 4,400 direct referrals have been made to governmental and non-governmental actors through information provision and counselling.

In addition, 144,827 vulnerable Syrians living in camps in the southeast of Turkey continued to receive 50 Turkish Liras (~USD 18) per person per month to be spent on food. This assistance is complemented by assistance of 50 Turkish Liras provided by AFAD. In-camp price monitoring during September showed the average food basket cost in WFP assisted camps was 67.5 Turkish Liras.

A WFP online survey showed that most Turkish and Syrian people are comfortable with their children having friends from outside their culture, but less comfortable with their children marrying into another culture. Some 77 percent of Syrians indicated that they felt safe in their neighbourhoods.

## 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

Read how beneficiaries in the south-eastern province of Sanliurfa are benefitting from the ESSN on [euronews.com](http://euronews.com).



## Country Background & Strategy



A G20 country, Turkey has a large and diverse economy. Gross National Income per capita is USD 9,950. Turkey continues to be under a State of Emergency, following a failed coup attempt in July 2016.

As of September 2017, the number of registered refugees in Turkey is over 3.3 million, confirming Turkey as host country to the highest number of refugees in the world. While more than 230,000 refugees reside in camps located in the south east, 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 20,000 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 an EUR 3 billion Facility for Refugees in Turkey (FRT) to fund humanitarian assistance to refugees in Turkey.

WFP has been present in Turkey since 2013

Population: **78 million**

2016 Human Development Index:  
**71 out of 188 (0.761)**

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

Turkey's economy: **18<sup>th</sup> 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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