



# WFP Turkey Country Brief

## Highlights

- In November, WFP Turkey and European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) finalised plans for the second phase of the Emergency Social Safety Net programme. ECHO's largest-ever grant of EUR 650 million will enable the programme to continue to January 2019, targeting 1.3 million vulnerable refugees with 120 Turkish Liras (USD 32) per month, as well as periodic top-ups to cover their basic needs.
- WFP continued to support very vulnerable refugees in ten camps across the southeast of Turkey in December. Contributions are still needed to continue the programme in 2018.

## WFP Assistance

Turkey, Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP) January-December 2018	Total Requirements (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	496.2 m	12.9 m

\* January - June 2018

### GENDER MARKER 2A

Turkey has the largest refugee population of any country in the world. 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 32) 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. Furthermore, it promotes social cohesion between the refugees and their hosts, as well as benefitting 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.

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 549 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 1.68 billion worth of commodities have been procured in Turkey since 2011. Almost two thirds of these commodities have been used for emergency food assistance in WFP's emergency response in Iraq, Syria and the region, including surrounding countries hosting refugees.

## Operational Updates

By 27 November, 397,688 applications to the ESSN had been received, totaling nearly 2 million people. Around 3,500 applications were submitted per week in December. Ninety-nine percent have been processed. So far, 53 percent of assessed applications are eligible.

In December, ESSN payments were transferred to 199,336 households (totalling 1,175,254 persons). The average eligible household size is 5.9 persons.

WFP field staff have monitored 628 Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations (SASFs), 18 Service Centres (SCs), and 284 Halkbank branches in 636 districts in 79 provinces, with many visited multiple times since the programme launched.

## In Numbers

145,000 refugees assisted in camps

1,175,000 refugees assisted by the ESSN

People Assisted  
December 2017

52%



48%



On 14-15 December, a training was held in Ankara with participation from several SAFs from across Turkey. The first day focused on updates and exchange of experience around the ESSN, while the second half-day was dedicated to the Conditional Cash Transfers for Education (CTE) programme implemented by UNICEF using the ESSN card.

By the end of December, 6,582 remote post-distribution monitoring interviews with ESSN beneficiary and non-beneficiary households were completed through the TRC call centre. These interviews will enable regular measurement of the results of ESSN assistance to beneficiary households. Also in December, focus group discussions were conducted nationwide to get a detailed insight into the topic of financial inclusion of refugees.

ECHO Director Jean-Louis de Brouwer visited Turkey. On 18 December, in Gaziantep, WFP arranged for him to meet with two vulnerable refugee families: one receiving the ESSN and one unable to apply because of registration issues.

In addition, 144,526 vulnerable Syrians living in camps in the southeast of Turkey continued to receive 50 Turkish Liras (USD 13) per person per month to be spent on food in December. In-camp price monitoring during December showed the average food basket cost in WFP-contracted shops cost 71 Turkish Liras (USD 19). AFAD provides an additional 50 Turkish Liras, which can be spent on both food and non-food items.

WFP Turkey continued its activities marking the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence through awareness-raising activities across Area Offices and Field Offices.

## 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 about how the ESSN programme is giving refugee children in Turkey happier lives on [insight.wfp.org](http://insight.wfp.org).



## Country Background & Strategy



A G20 country, Turkey has a large and diverse economy. The country is currently under a state of emergency, following a failed coup attempt in July 2016.

As of December 2017, the number of refugees in Turkey is over 3.7 million, confirming Turkey's position as host to the highest number of refugees in the world. While 228,000 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 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 (FRT) to fund humanitarian assistance to refugees in Turkey.

WFP has been present in Turkey since 2012.

Population: <b>78 million</b>	2016 Human Development Index: <b>71 out of 188 (0.761)</b>
Income Level: <b>Upper middle</b> GDP/capita: <b>USD10,787 (2016)</b>	Turkey's economy: <b>18<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world</b>

## Current Donors (Alphabetical list)

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

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