

# E-FOOD CARD PROGRAMME BRIEF



TÜRKİYE KIZILAY DERNEĞİ



The Electronic Food Card (e-Food Card) Programme supports Syrian families living in camps to purchase sufficient nutritious food items to meet household needs. The launch of the programme in Turkey marked the first occasion where the World Food Programme (WFP) implemented an e-card programme from the onset of an emergency response. In partnership with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC/KIZILAY), WFP operates under a cost sharing modality with the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) to provide food assistance to camp populations.

By mid-2014, WFP and KIZILAY had expanded the e-Food Card Programme to all 21 civilian camps in Turkey, reaching the full camp population of 220,000 people every month.

### **How much assistance is provided?**

Each person receives 80 Turkish Liras (TL) per month. Under the cost-sharing modality, WFP uploads 60 TL per person per month on the WFP/KIZILAY e-cards, complementing AFAD's provision of 20 TL for food allowance and 5 TL for non-food items on AFAD e-cards. The collective food voucher value of 80 TL is sufficient for a diverse and nutritious diet of at least 2,100 kilocalories per day.

### **Where is the e-card redeemed?**

The e-cards only work in the terminals of shops selected by WFP, KIZILAY and the AFAD. In order to allow for oversight and monitoring ensuring that sufficient quantities of nutritious and fresh food products are available at competitive market prices. The entitlement can be redeemed in shops within the camps or located in nearby urban centres. All shops are under contract with KIZILAY and monitored to ensure compliance with programme regulations.

### **How is timeliness of assistance assured?**

The total amount of assistance for the household is electronically loaded onto the WFP/KIZILAY cards in two separate instalments each month. At the end of the month any balance remaining on the card is cleared and returned to the KIZILAY e-Food Card Programme account.

### **Who gets assisted and how is their identity verified?**

An updated list of family members staying in each container or tent is provided by AFAD twice a month and the amount uploaded to the card in each installment is adjusted accordingly. In order to use the card, the person must present their camp ID and the family number must match the family number printed on the e-card.

### **How is it ensured that households purchase nutritious food?**

Certain foods cannot be purchased using the cards. The list of forbidden items includes alcohol, cigarettes, chocolate, sweets, biscuits, ice-cream and soda. Regular monitoring of shops and households is undertaken to ensure these regulations are implemented and standards maintained.

### **Why not just provide food?**

The e-card is a cost effective and efficient way of providing food assistance while supporting the local economy. Most importantly, it allows Syrian families to choose what they buy and cook based on their tastes and preferences – restoring some sense of normalcy to their lives.

### **Does the e-Food Card Programme provide cooking oil or gas?**

Each tent/partition/container has been provided with an electrical stove and in some camps, the authorities have opened communal kitchens for the use of all beneficiaries.

### **How does the e-cards compare to the provision of hot meals in terms of quantity of food and beneficiary satisfaction?**

Beneficiaries' prefer e-cards to hot meal provision – as is evident in 90 percent of interviewed beneficiaries reporting that hot meals provided were not aligned with traditional and cultural preferences and that the e-cards allowed them to access diverse and nutritious food of their own choosing. Of particular preference for Syrians, is the type of bread that they can now either bake in communal kitchens or buy in the markets.

## ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP

WFP is the UN agency tasked with providing food assistance and is the largest humanitarian agency in the world. In mid-2012, the Government of Turkey officially requested WFP to support the provision of food assistance to Syrians living in camps.

KIZILAY has extensive experience responding to emergencies around the world including over 140 years of experience operating in Turkey; it has been supporting Syrians living in Turkey since early 2011.

The partnership between KIZILAY and WFP is based on a common purpose and set of values; to prevent and alleviate human suffering and to protect lives and livelihoods through respectful and dignified programmes. With the e-Food Card Programme, a high value is placed on timely delivery of cost effective assistance that meets the full nutritional needs of beneficiaries while restoring dignity and normalcy to their lives.

AFAD and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are the two key government bodies with whom WFP and KIZILAY regularly coordinates and meets at a central level. The government is highly supportive of the programme and has been involved in its design from the inception. At the field level, WFP and KIZILAY work closely with the Coordinating Governor's office, Governors' Offices and the camp management teams. The strong level of support provided by the authorities has been a key success factor for the effective implementation and expansion of the programme.

Essential infrastructure and non-food items support for the programme implementation continues to be provided by AFAD, KIZILAY, UNCHR, IFRC and other Red Crescent Societies.



The Turkish Red Crescent (Kizilay) staff prepare meals in their mobile kitchen in Suruç.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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