Minimum Expenditure Basket After the Earthquake Disaster in Türkiye

Following the twin earthquakes took place in Southern Türkiye on February 2023, UN WFP, Türk Kızılay (TRC) and IFRC worked on a Minimum Expenditure Basket¹ (MEB)² methodology and analysis to contribute to the emergency response programs on quantifying basic needs.

Through the pre-earthquake population figures and the field observations, an average earthquake-affected household is composed of 5 people - 2 children and 3 adults. The food component of the MEB consists of a nutritionally balanced diet and the costs related to health, shelter, education, transportation and communication expenditure are calculated based on the Sphere standards. The monthly Consumption Price Index (CPI) data from Turkish Statistical Institute is used for calculation.

Between May and June, the MEB cost increased by 2% and it reached TRY 1653 per person and for a 5-people household the cost is TRY 8265. Even though inflation rate is going down, it is still high at 38.21% as of June 2023.

1   This term refers to “Estimated Minimum Expenditure Basket Value”  
2   For details of the MEB methodology and analysis: https://reliefweb.int/report/turkiye/minimum-expenditure-basket-methodology-and-analysis-turkiye-earthquake-emergency

Figure 1 Türkiye Earthquake Response MEB Cost Analysis
As can be seen in Figure 2, the percentage of MEB items is shown. Food has the highest share in the MEB (40%), followed by rent cost (31%), and utilities (11%). Non-food items make 8 percent of the MEB cost. In this regard, Figure 3 indicates the cost per household and per person for each expenditure component.

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