



WFP Turkey Country Brief

WFP Assistance

Assistance to vulnerable Syrian refugees and host communities in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey Regional PRRO 200987 (Jan. 2017-Dec. 2018)	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received	6 Months Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
	481m	313m	30.8 m (11%)

*February – July 2017

GENDER MARKER 2A  PRRO 200987

Turkey has the largest refugee population of any country in the world with over 3 million registered refugees, including over 2.8 million Syrians who have fled conflict. 90 percent of them live in cities and villages all across the country. Struggling to make ends meet, many are forced to go into debt, reduce the number of meals they take or cannot send children to school.

In response, WFP has partnered with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), the Turkish Government and the European Union's Humanitarian Aid to design and roll-out the **Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN)**. The ESSN is a cash assistance programme helping vulnerable refugees afford basic necessities such as food, rent, utilities, medicine and clothing. Each family supported by the ESSN receives a debit card that is loaded monthly with 100 Turkish Liras (USD 36)* per person, which can be used in local shops or to withdraw money from ATMs, granting them the freedom to choose what they need and returning a degree of normality and dignity to their lives. Families led by women and the elderly, with members living with disability, or with many dependents, such as children or elderly are prioritised. Launched at the end of 2016, the ESSN aims to support one million refugees in 2017.

Blending international humanitarian know-how and government services, the programme builds upon an existing WFP-TRC e-card scheme and the expertise of the Ministry of Family and Social Policy, under the coordination of the Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Authority. 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 positively impacts host communities by injecting money into local economies. Through its innovative use of partnerships with international and local actors, bridging the gap between humanitarian and development, and its efficient delivery system, the ESSN embodies the spirit of the World

Main Credit: WFP/Deniz Akkus

Photo Caption: ESSN card distribution in Ankara, Turkey.

Highlights

- In January, the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) assistance reached over 120,000 vulnerable refugees across Turkey. In total, 153,543 family applications (750,000 people) have been received and are being assessed. The innovative multi-purpose cash ESSN assistance scheme is funded by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) and implemented by WFP, the Ministry of Family and Social Policies (MoFSP) and the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC).
- In addition, WFP and TRC continued to assist 216,641 refugees as they transition to the ESSN through application and 143,168 Syrian refugees living in camps.

Humanitarian Summit and the Grand Bargain that was signed in Turkey in 2016.

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

In January, 121,177 vulnerable refugees received ESSN assistance. In total, 153,543 applications, representing 750,000 people, have been received. In parallel, 216,641 vulnerable refugees identified through previous programmes received 100 Turkish Liras (USD 36)* to help them cover their basic needs and avoid a break in assistance as their ESSN application was being processed. In addition, 143,168 vulnerable Syrians living in 11 camps in the south-east of Turkey received 50 Turkish Liras (USD 18)* per person per month to be spent on food, complemented by assistance provided by the Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD).

Since 2012, WFP has injected USD 213.6 million into the Turkish economy through the e-cards. WFP also has a history of large-scale commodity procurement in Turkey to support its operations globally, with USD 1.45 billion worth of commodities procured since 2011. Almost 64 percent of these commodities have been used for emergency food assistance within Syria and the region, including surrounding countries hosting refugees and WFP's emergency response in Iraq.

*Due to fluctuations in the exchange, USD value are approximations only.

In Numbers

143,168 refugees assisted in camps

216,641 refugees assisted in communities

121,177 refugees received ESSN assistance.

People Assisted
January 2017

52%



48%



Operational Updates

The nationwide ESSN programme continued in full coordination and partnership with the Ministry of Family and Social Policies (MoFSP) and TRC. In total, WFP field staff have monitored the application process in 276 Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation (SASF) offices and 14 Service Centre (SCs) where ESSN applications are taken, in 73 provinces out of 81 covering 278 districts.

WFP field teams also monitored beneficiaries while withdrawing their entitlements in cash from the ATM machines, and assisted with translation to facilitate banking transactions where ATMs lacked Arabic interface.

In each location visited, WFP monitoring teams sensitised applicants and staff taking applications about ESSN procedures, providing explanations, distributing brochures and referring people to the free TRC hotline.

WFP in coordination with TRC and MoFSP undertook two trainings in Istanbul of 70 staff of SASF. The purpose of the training was to provide guidance, share best practices and lessons learnt and to ensure more consistent practices are undertaken across the SASF offices.

WFP conducted a small post distribution monitoring pilot (face-to-face) covering the first ESSN beneficiaries from Ankara and Sivas who received assistance in December.

In an unprecedented approach, a joint WFP-TRC Management Cell has been set up to optimise collaboration on project management and foster exchange of knowledge. Various functions have been identified and staffed by both organisations. The cell will expedite troubleshooting and decision making related to issues identified during implementation.

Partnerships

WFP and TRC are working at the central and field levels in collaboration with Turkish authorities, including the Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), the Ministry of Interior Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Family and Social Policies, Social Solidarity and Assistance Foundations, the Directorate General of Population and Citizenship and Governor's offices. WFP also collaborates closely with UN agencies, NGOs and the donor community. An ESSN Task Force co-chaired by WFP and TRC has been set up to ensure coordination with sister UN agencies and NGOs.

Story worth telling

On January 11, WFP hosted a press briefing in Ankara attended by Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister, the EU's Head of Delegation, President of AFAD and Heads of TRC and WFP among other government and partner representatives in addition to refugee families benefitting from ESSN assistance. The event attracted extensive media coverage highlighting the impact and partnership aspect of the EU-funded cash programme. Watch the assisted family life conditions [here](#).

A [story](#) of more than Onion and Bread: EU humanitarian aid supports the World Food Programme e-food card initiative for Syrian refugees in Turkey.

Country Background & Strategy



A G20 country, Turkey has a large and diverse economy. In 2015, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was USD 718 billion. Since 2012, Turkey has been emerging as a growing humanitarian donor. The country is currently under a state of emergency, following a failed coup attempt by a faction of the armed forces on 15 July 2016.

As of January 2017, the number of registered refugees in Turkey is 3,150,369 confirming Turkey's position as host to the highest number of refugees in the world. While 254,834 refugees reside in 21 camps located in the south east, the vast majority continue to 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 10,000 work permits granted so far. In response to the migration crisis which led hundreds of thousands to undertake perilous journeys on the Mediterranean, Turkey and the EU agreed in October 2015 on a Joint Action Plan to step up their cooperation on migration to tackle the refugee crisis.

WFP has been present in Turkey since 2012.

Population: **78 million**

2016 Human Development Index: **72 out of 188 (0.761)**

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

Turkey's economy: **17th largest economy in the world**

Current Donors (Alphabetical list)

Australia, European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), France, Germany, Japan, Kuwait, Sweden, and USAID.

Contact info: turkey.info@wfp.org

Country Director: Jean-Yves Lequime

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

www.cdn.wfp.org/syriainfo/syria.html

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