



UNRESTRICTED CASH ASSISTANCE FOR BASIC NEEDS

Supporting Syrian and non-Syrian refugees during winter times

Welthungerhilfe (WHH) is one of the largest non-profit aid organisations in Germany with no political or religious affiliation. We provide emergency relief as well as long-term development aid to people in need worldwide. In Turkey, Welthungerhilfe (WHH) has been officially registered since 2013. Initially, we provided emergency assistance through for example aid packages including items such as blankets, clothes, mattresses and heating material during the cold winter. As the conflict in Syria continued and the humanitarian crisis worsened, WHH has adapted a more comprehensive approach, which aims to strengthen the resilience of people affected by the conflict. We support Syrians under Temporary Protection (SuTP) in Turkey as well as Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and host communities in Syria with project activities focusing on increasing food security through cash assistance and small scale agricultural activities as well as the rehabilitation of water infrastructure. In Turkey, which has hosted more than 3.6 million Syrians since the beginning of the crisis, WHH also provides cash assistance supplementary to the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN), a cash assistance scheme implemented by the United Nations together with Turkish partners as well

as individual help through case management and support community centres with the aim to ease tensions, improve integration and strengthen social cohesion between Syrian and Turkish communities.

Humanitarian situation for Syrians in provinces of South-East of Turkey

According to Turkish government the provinces of Mardin, Diyarbakir, Batman, Hatay currently host more than 590,000 Syrian refugees under Temporary Protection. Many Syrian families living in these provinces continuously face difficulties paying rent and meeting their basic needs such as food, clothing and energy even during the summer months. Winter exacerbates the hardship and makes the need for humanitarian assistance more pronounced every year. Income opportunities through seasonal labour are limited during the winter season, which means that incomes are even more decreased compared to the rest of the year which puts substantial stress on families to cover costs of basic necessities, including food, rent, and utilities incl. heating. Additionally, calorie requirements are higher in winter than in summer months, especially for children.

Helping refugees in Turkey with cash card support

Over 3.6 million Syrians have fled to Turkey since the beginning of the conflict in 2011. The majority of them have settled in the Southeast of Turkey close to the Syrian border or in larger urban areas such as Istanbul. Many have lived in Turkey for years now and have run out of savings that helped them to survive for a while. Due to the lack of access to employment a lot of people are struggling to provide their families with food and basic items for daily life.

With financial and technical support to be provided by UNICEF, WHH is planning to target the most vulnerable Syrian and non-Syrian refugees living in the four target provinces (Mardin, Diyarbakir, Batman, Hatay) with unconditional and unrestricted cash card support, to cover their heightened basic needs during the winter months of 2018/19. This will also include support to vulnerable host community families that demonstrate the same vulnerabilities. In total this project will receive 8,000 households with an average of 6 members per household. WHH will conduct a need assessments in all the targeting areas through home visits in order to identify and select the most vulnerable Syrian and non-Syrian refugees who meet the following criteria:

- Shelter and living conditions focusing on winter specific vulnerabilities,
- Number of household members, number of school age children, age of children and adults; household demographic composition and dependency ration,
- Protection concerns, Health related vulnerabilities, socio-economic.

Special support for infants, children, and pregnant and breastfeeding women

In addition and with financial and technical support from UNICEF WHH also intends to address issues related to public health promotion focusing specifically on nutrition of young infants, children, and pregnant/breastfeeding women. Dietary quality worsens during the winter season due to scarcity of labour opportunities

and high prices of vegetables and fruits. Low intake of nutrients could jeopardise nutritional status in the long term, particularly among vulnerable household members. Furthermore, chronic undernutrition affects 24 percent of children under five years among SuTPs. Children raised with poor nutritional status are likely to aca-



Households visits by Welthungerhilfe staff. Awareness raising on good nutritional amongst the Syrian refugee population in Turkey © Welthungerhilfe

demically underperform, exacerbating social disparity and loss their laborforce in the future. One of the main reason for the chronic malnutrition under five years is the nonproper practices on infant and young children feeding which address the lack of nutritional knowledge and good nutritional practices amongst the Syrian refugee population in Turkey. Since nutritional awareness and dietary habits have remained largely unaddressed so far, WHH include a component on awareness raising on nutrition including infant and young children feeding, pregnant and breastfeeding nutrition as well as nutritional values of certain food groups, safe and healthy food preparation/storage, and dietary diversity. Increasing refugee families' awareness of what to look out for in their food consumption in order to increase the nutritional value of food and outlining the benefits of good nutritional practices specifically for infants, young children and pregnant/breastfeeding women. WHH expect to increase awareness and knowledge through Nutrition trainings in this regards, which consequently, will sup-

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