

UNHCR supports Syrian refugees with the cooking facilities

UNHCR Turkey, October 2013

The influx of Syrians to neighbouring countries reached almost 2.2 million and the number of Syrian refugees registered in and out of camps in Turkey is over 500,000. As of mid October 2013, the number of Syrians residing in 21 camps located in 10 cities in the South East of Turkey stands at over 200,000.

Being one of the elements of the temporary protection regime established by the Government of Turkey for all Syrians seeking international protection, Syrian refugees residing in camps receive protection and basic services including food, shelter, education and medical assistance.

Life in a refugee camp is not easy. Some of the Syrian refugees have been residing in camps for more than 2.5 years. One of the programs that has direct positive impact in their daily life is the E-card program. The program is being implemented in cooperation with WFP and Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) and allows Syrian families living in the camps to purchase nutritious food items directly from markets. Thanks to the generous support of the States of Kuwait, Japan, and China, UNHCR is providing cooking facilities (fridges, hot plate cookers, cupboards) to support 32,500 Syrian families in camps which make this program possible.

Since most of the Syrian refugees arrive in Turkey with basic belongings, provision of cooking facilities was essential and helped them to gain a sense of normality in their life in the camps. Through the provision of the cooking facilities each family has the opportunity to gather and enjoy the meal in conformity with the Syrian tradition. Moreover, considering the high temperatures approaching 50 degrees celsius especially during summer period, the mini-fridges were much welcomed by the refugees as they could preserve their food.



A mother of six children residing in Akcakale tent camp in Sanliurfa, is teaching and helping other Syrian refugees who need treatment by providing physiotherapy at the health center. She said she is cooking and keeping the food in the refrigerator, so when she is at health center her children can easily feed themselves. Photo: UNHCR/Turkey.

The Programme is planned to be implemented in all camps. UNHCR supported the Turkey's response to Syria emergency by donating core relief items amounting over USD 52 million through funding by donor countries.



Mother of 8 children said she is grateful for all assistance given to them; especially the refrigerator included in the cooking facilities. Photo: UNHCR/Turkey Akcakale, Sanliurfa

Donor Countries supporting the provision of the cooking facilities:

