



welt  
hunger  
hilfe

For a world without hunger



# Welthungerhilfe (WHH) in Turkey, Syria & Lebanon

Improving living conditions of men, women and children  
affected by the Syrian war



# WHO WE ARE

Welthungerhilfe (WHH) is one of the largest non-profit aid organisations in Germany with no political or religious affiliation. It was founded in 1962 under the umbrella of the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO). Welthungerhilfe (WHH) provides emergency relief as well as long-term development aid to people in need worldwide. With 407 international projects in 2016, we were able to support 8,4 million people in 39 countries. The fundamental principle of Welthungerhilfe (WHH) is help for self-help: together with local partner organisations, we strengthen structures from the bottom up and ensure success of our project work in the long-term. In line with Core Humanitarian Standards, people in need receive assistance independent of political and religious affiliations, age, gender, race, colour, ethnicity, disability or health status.



Photo: Gulsin Ketenci © Welthungerhilfe

# OUR VISION

## Zero Hunger by 2030

We fight against global hunger and for sustainable food security. We envision a world in which all people can exercise their right to a self-determined life in dignity and justice, free from hunger and poverty.

**Our goal:** Improving living conditions in a sustainable way.

In Turkey, Syria and Lebanon our goal is to improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable populations affected by the war in Syria through the delivery of emergency and development assistance as well as the strengthening of people's resilience. One of our strategic objectives is to strengthen humanitarian aid in the region and link it with development.

**Our principle:** Helping people to help themselves.

Our actions are based on the principles of equality, human rights and self-determination. The people with whom we work are partners striving towards social change. We treat them with respect, solidarity and compassion.

Transparency and reliability are the cornerstones of our work – with regards to our partners, the public, donors and public sponsors. Our work is shaped by creativity and by a constant willingness to learn and innovate.

# WELTHUNGERHILFE IN TURKEY, SYRIA & LEBANON

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, Welthungerhilfe (WHH) has adapted a more comprehensive approach, which aims to strengthen the resilience of people affected by the conflict. In both Turkey and Syria our objective is to increase the food security of displaced Syrians and host communities working in four main sectors:

## 1. Basic needs – Emergency assistance

Photo: Stephanie Bröder © Welthungerhilfe



*Syrian woman receiving cash card from Welthungerhilfe (WHH) Field Officer in Kahramanmaraş, Turkey.*

In Turkey, where we work in Istanbul, Hatay, Kilis, Kahramanmaraş, Gaziantep, Mardin & Batman, we support vulnerable families with cash cards and Cash for Work (CfW) activities. People receive a monthly fixed amount of money on cards which they can use at dedicated markets and shops to buy food and other basic items needed for daily life. During the winter people receive additional assistance enabling them to buy warm cloths, blankets, heaters, fuel or other heating material.” People participating in CfW activities such as child care or

translation services receive a monthly salary for their work. The long term objective is to turn those activities into proper income-generating jobs. In Syria, where we have worked in Hama, Idlib and Aleppo governorate, we support displaced people and host communities with food vouchers, free bread distributions, and bakery support. We also distribute aid packages such as hygiene kits for immediate emergency relief.

## 2. Protection & Social Integration

Photo: Serbest Salih © Welthungerhilfe



*Welthungerhilfe (WHH) staff creating paper rockets with Turkish and Syrian children at an event for World Refugee Day 2017 in Mardin, Turkey*

In Turkey, Welthungerhilfe (WHH) provides individual support through case management and facilitates access to existing social and protection services such as for example registering for ID documents. Many Syrians lack valid ID documents, which means they are unable to receive medical treatment in government hospitals or register their children in Turkish schools. While the Turkish government and other social welfare organisations offer a wide range of welfare services, Syrians and other refugees often cannot access them due

to language barriers or lack of understanding of administrative procedures. In our own community centre in Mardin and through other partners, Welthungerhilfe (WHH) provides individual help such as translation or legal support to fill this gap. We also support community centres run by Turkish partner organisations to strengthen social cohesion between Syrians and local communities. The centres offer psycho-social counselling, legal support, life-skill trainings, as well as other social and sports activities.

## 3. Agriculture

© Welthungerhilfe



*Welthungerhilfe (WHH) field officer with a Syrian man who received support to grow and sell his own vegetables in Elbeyli, Turkey.*

In Turkey, we support vulnerable families in achieving food security and improve their living conditions through income-generating vegetable production and agricultural training. We also provide nutritional trainings in order to raise awareness and promote healthy eating habits. In Syria, we distribute agricultural vouchers with which people can purchase seeds to grow peas, beans, parsley, spinach, pepper, tomatoes or eggplants and fertiliser. With the first distribution of vouchers people receive

basic agricultural tools like shovels and hoes for planting and harvesting. Around 250 individuals receive training in micro gardening enabling them to share their expertise with the wider community. In Lebanon, Welthungerhilfe (WHH) provides agricultural trainings and supports Syrian refugees and host communities in accessing markets to sell their agricultural products.

## 4. Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

© Welthungerhilfe



*A water pipe which was repaired by Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and its partner Hand in Hand for Syria (HiH) in Idlib governorate, Syria.*

We increase access to safe and clean drinking water for displaced and host communities in Syria as well as Syrian refugees and host communities in Lebanon through the rehabilitation of water networks and water stations as well as technical and hygiene trainings.

“

We coordinate our assistance in Turkey and inside Syria with AFAD, the Turkish Red Crescent, the United Nations as well as local and international humanitarian organisations. Inside Syria, Welthungerhilfe (WHH) works through local partners.

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# TURKEY



3,4 million refugees<sup>1</sup>

8 projects in 7 regions targeting more than 120.000 individuals



## Increasing food security through cash cards

Until the outbreak of the war in Syria Zeynep Deiri<sup>2</sup> and her family had a simple, but happy live in the countryside of Idlib in Northern Syria. In 2012, the escalating fighting forced the 35-year old to flee to Turkey with her husband and her eight children. Other members of her family joined her shortly after. When they arrived in Turkey, their lives changed drastically. Zeynep and her family now live in a one bedroom flat in the city of Kahramanmaraş in Southeastern Turkey.

Photo: Stephanie Binder © Welthungerhilfe



Zeynep Deiri buying food with a Welthungerhilfe (WHH) cash card at a local market in Kahramanmaraş, Turkey.

Photo: Stephanie Binder © Welthungerhilfe

Sometimes she does not have enough food to cook for her children and her husband. Vegetables and meat have become a luxury, sweets for the children even more so. “This month there will be no chocolate or milk. We are only going to buy basic food – bulgur, sugar, oil and hygiene items [...], because our father cannot afford to buy milk or chocolate,” Zeynep recounts a day when the children were asking their grandmother if they could have some chocolate. The children did not understand why the family would only eat rice or bulgur or had to cut down on whole meals on some days. In 2017, Zeynep received a Welthungerhilfe (WHH) cash card with which she can buy much needed basic food for her family. “The cash card helps us a lot, because we have more money to spend on rent, electricity and other utilities,” Zeynep says.

<sup>1</sup> Source: UNHCR/Government of Turkey

<sup>2</sup> All names of people mentioned in this brochure have been changed.

## Circus activities and photography classes for children

Photo: Stephanie Binder © Welthungerhilfe



*Fatme with her sons Juan and Ibrahim in their home in Istasyon, Mardin, Turkey. August 2017*

Fatme Said from Aleppo is 50 years old and has five daughters and three sons. When she fled Turkey from Syria she came with her husband. Now she is a single mother living in poverty. Her husband left her for a second wife and no longer supports her. Her 16-year old son decided to go back to Syria after he could not adjust to life in Turkey. She has not heard from him ever since. Every day is a challenge for Fatme and her sons Juan and Ibrahim who still live with her. All three of them collect plastic and other rubbish from the street that they sell to

survive. “Every two months or so we make 100 – 150 Turkish Lira (about 24 – 36 Euro) like this,” Fatme says. In the past, she received aid packages with food from Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and now relies on cash assistance from the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN), a cash assistance scheme by the European Union and the Turkish government. There is very little room for Juan and Ibrahim to be normal children. In the summer, they often spend hours working in up to 50 degrees. “The work is difficult when it is really hot. We sometimes work until 11 or 12 o’clock at night,” says Juan. Time spent at Welthungerhilfe (WHH) Children Photo Club is one of the few occasions when both brothers can forget about their everyday life challenges. Here Syrian and Turkish children learn about the basics of photography including photo composition, framing and other techniques. They then take pictures of their friends and families with analogue cameras and learn how to develop them in a darkroom. Juan and Ibrahim also participate in circus activities of the Welthungerhilfe (WHH) partner Arts Anywhere. “I would like to work in the circus. I’m good at playing the diabolo and juggling,” Juan says while his face lights up.

# SYRIA

# “

13,1 million people in need of humanitarian assistance<sup>3</sup>

3 projects in Aleppo and Idlib governorates targeting more than 380.000 individuals

# ”

## Supporting displaced Syrians with food vouchers in Idlib and Aleppo

Mustafa Najar is 37 years old and was forced to flee from the northern Aleppo countryside to the western part of the governorate with his family. “About a year ago there was an escalation in fighting and my town was hit day and night with barrel and vacuum bombs in addition to heavy artillery shelling. I lost



Photo: Sari Haj, Ineid © Welthungerhilfe

*Mustafa Najar in his temporary home in Western Aleppo.*

my son in one of these airstrikes. He was killed.” Mustafa no longer felt safe and together with his family he decided to leave his home town. He is now displaced in his own country and depends on humanitarian assistance to care for his seven children and his elderly parents. Like many others, the ongoing war in Syria has trapped Mustafa in a cycle of poverty and hunger. Food prices have increased dramatically due to record low food production, the depreciation of the Syrian currency and the cut of

government subsidies. One week’s food supply in Syria costs eight times more than before the crisis. According to the United Nations, almost 6.5 million people are facing acute hunger, with an additional four million people at risk of becoming food insecure. Food insecurity in Aleppo and Idlib governorate is particularly high and the majority of people depend on food aid from local and international humanitarian organisations. Many days, Mustafa cannot buy enough food to feed his family. Even the most basic items

<sup>3</sup> Source: UN OCHA

<sup>4</sup> Also called volumetric weapons, which work by dispersing an explosive element or fuel, which creates an aerosolized cloud on impact. The weapon’s explosive then ignites the aerosolized cloud, producing a powerful shockwave and high temperatures.

such as rice or oil are expensive. With food vouchers from Welthungerhilfe (WHH) and its partner People in Need (PIN) Mustafa can buy monthly food worth 38500 Syrian Pounds (around 67 Euro). “I am thankful for this support, it lessens our suffering. I can buy whatever I need in terms of food items - whether it is vegetables, fruits, cheese or meat. I have been receiving this support for three months and I hope it will continue in the future.”

## Supporting farmers with vouchers for seeds and agricultural tools

Ahmet Mubarak owns a small piece of land that he farms together with his five sons and four daughters in a village in rural Idlib. Before the outbreak of the Syrian war his farm was his sole source of income and he was able to provide for his family. The violence and economic challenges caused by the conflict changed everything. Due to the lack of water, electricity and the increase of prices for fuel, seeds and agricultural essentials, farming is no longer profitable. Like many others, the 47-year old can no longer produce and sell enough vegetables and wheat to take care of himself and his family. “My family and I have been working in agriculture since I was a child, now it’s more difficult. The profits have decreased every year. Farming is the only source of income for my family,” Ahmet says. With the help of agricultural vouchers, which are worth around 64 Euro he can continue to grow wheat on parts of his land. “I own a 16-dunam (one dunam equals about 900 square metres) piece of land where I used to plant wheat, lentils and sometimes vegetables. With the vouchers, I am able to buy a sufficient amount of good quality wheat seeds to farm almost 10 dunams of my land,” he says. Ahmet’s hopes for the future are simple. “I hope the security situation will improve and displaced families will be able to return to their homes and jobs,” Ahmet tells us.

Photo: Sari Haj Jneid © Welthungerhilfe



*Ahmet Mubarak on his farm in Idlib governorate, Syria. October 2017.*



*Ameer Khalaf with his sheep in his village in Idlib governorate, Syria. September 2017*

## Clean drinking water for host communities and displaced people in Idlib

37-year old Ameer Khalaf lives in a small village in Idlib governorate with his wife and five children. Like many others in his community he is a farmer who owns his own herd of sheep, which is how he earned a living to provide for his family. But with the outbreak of the war came the electricity and water shortages, rising prices for fuel and fertiliser. Eventually, the main water station in the village was

destroyed by the fighting. Ameer's family no longer had enough water for themselves and the sheep. They were forced to buy expensive water from private water trucks for nearly five years.

"We used to buy 15 loads from private water trucks per month in the summer and 10 in the winter. One water truck costs 3000 Syrian Pounds (about 4,9 Euro)," he explains. In 2017, Welthungerhilfe (WHH) together with its partner Hand in Hand for Syria (HiH) repaired the local water station, which now supplies drinking water quality to about 16,7000 people from the local community and displaced people who fled from other areas in Syria. Residents now only pay 1500 Syrian Pounds (about 2,4 Euro) for the restored public water services. "Before, we couldn't take a shower more than one time a week. We used to use the laundry water or the dish washing water for other purposes for example to water plants on the farm. Now we have enough water for daily use," Ameer says. He is now able to provide water for his herd again, which has decreased from 200 to about 20 sheep. He uses the money he previously spent on expensive water to buy other basic items such as food and medicine for his family. Ameer's biggest fear is that the security situation will worsen and lead to more shelling and airstrikes. "But I hope we continue to improve our life and stay safe," he adds.

## Our donors



## Our partners



## Welthungerhilfe

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