

# Minimum Expenditure Basket After the Earthquake Disaster in Türkiye

After two destructive earthquakes in southeastern Türkiye in February 2023, the UN WFP and Türk Kızılay (Turkish Red Crescent) collaborated on a study using the Minimum Expenditure Basket<sup>1</sup> (MEB) methodology and analysis. The purpose of this paper was to assess and measure basic needs in order to support emergency response efforts. Relief efforts continue in the most affected regions despite the time that has passed since these catastrophic earthquakes.

The average earthquake-affected household consists of five people, including two children and three adults, based on pre-earthquake population data and field assessments. The food component of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) covers expenditures related to a nutritionally balanced diet, while expenditures related to health, shelter, education, transportation and communication are calculated according to Sphere standards. The monthly calculations are using Consumption Price Index (CPI) data provided by the TURKSTAT<sup>2</sup>.



In April 2024, the cost of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) increased by 2.04 percent compared to March 2024, reaching 2,782 TRY per individual and 13,908 TRY for a household of five. Despite the slight downward trend in food prices, the 4.6 percent increase in rent prices pushed MEB cost upward. With this change in food and rent prices, the share of rent becomes the top expenditure item in the basket. In addition, the annual inflation rate continued to rise, reaching 69.8 percent, while the monthly inflation rate was 3.18 percent.

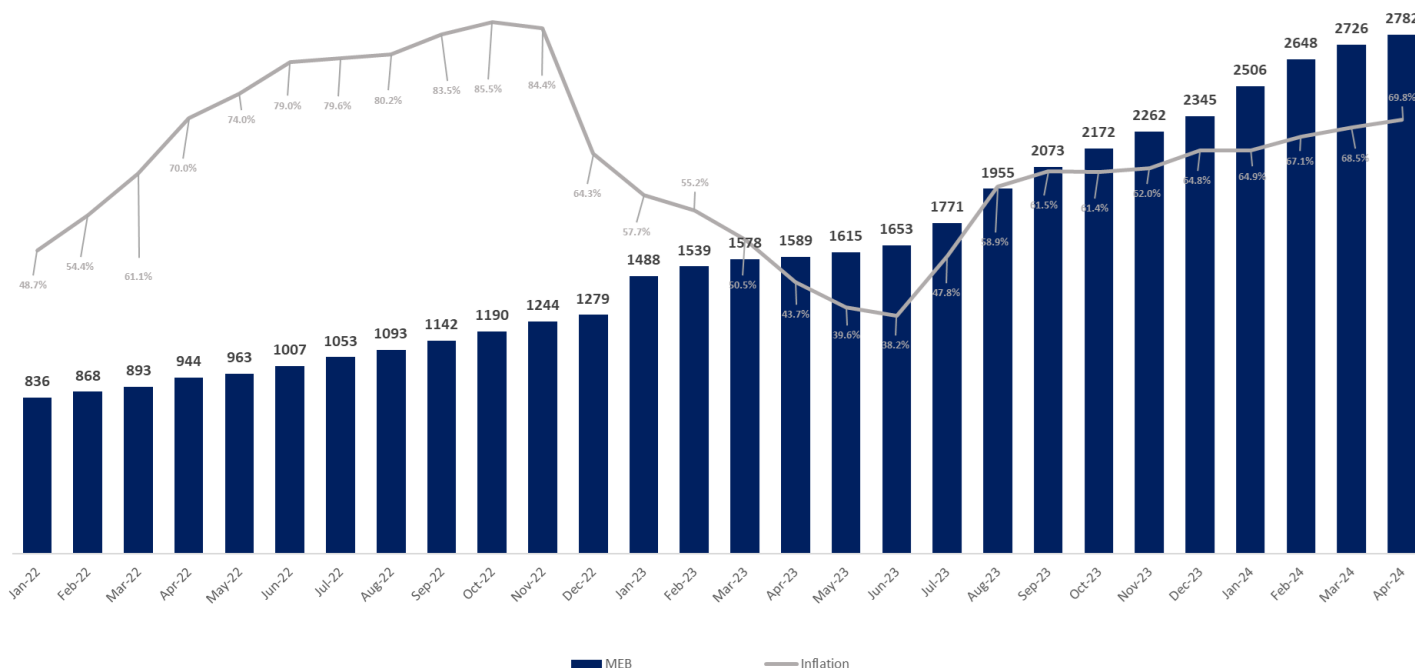


Figure 1 Türkiye Earthquake Response MEB Cost Analysis

1 For details of the MEB methodology and analysis: [https://platform.kizilaykart.org/en/Doc/rapor/MEB\\_report.pdf](https://platform.kizilaykart.org/en/Doc/rapor/MEB_report.pdf)

2 TURKSTAT, "Consumer Price Index - April 2024," Turkish Statistical Institute, <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Consumer-Price-Index-April-2024-53614>

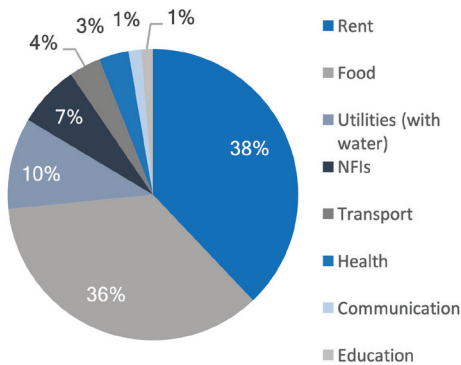


Figure 2 Share of MEB Items

Figure 2 illustrates the percentages associated with various items within the MEB. The analysis indicates that the two largest contributors to the MEB are rent at 38 percent and food at 36 percent. These items are followed by utilities and non-food items, which account for 10 percent and 7 percent of the MEB, as shown. Transportation and health costs contribute 4 percent and 3 percent respectively, while the smallest contributors are

Commodities	5 People Household (TRY)	Per Person (TRY)
Food	4.939	988
Rent	5.273	1.055
Utilities (with water)	1.412	282
NFIs	957	191
Health	462	92
Education	184	37
Transport	490	98
Communication	191	38
<b>MEB Cost</b>	<b>13.908</b>	<b>2.782</b>

Figure 3 Households MEB Components

communication and education at 1 percent each. Figure 3 above provides a visual representation of the costs per household and per capita for each expenditure component of the MEB.

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