

# Minimum Expenditure Basket After the Earthquake Disaster in Türkiye

Following the devastating 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. This paper intended to support earthquake response efforts by evaluating and measuring basic needs. Despite the time has passed since these catastrophic earthquakes, relief efforts continue in the most affected regions.

According to pre-earthquake population data and field assessments, the average earthquake-affected household comprises five individuals, including two children and three adults. The food segment of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) covers expenses related to a nutritionally balanced diet, while costs associated with 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 February 2024, the cost of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) increased by 5.65 percent



compared to January 2024, reaching 2,648 TRY per individual and 13,239 TRY for a household of five. This increase was mainly due to higher costs in two key components of the MEB: Food and Rent. Food expenditure increased by 6.31 percent, while rent expenditure increased by 7.06 percent during the same period. In addition, the annual inflation rate continued to rise, reaching 67.07 percent, with a monthly inflation rate of 4.53 percent.

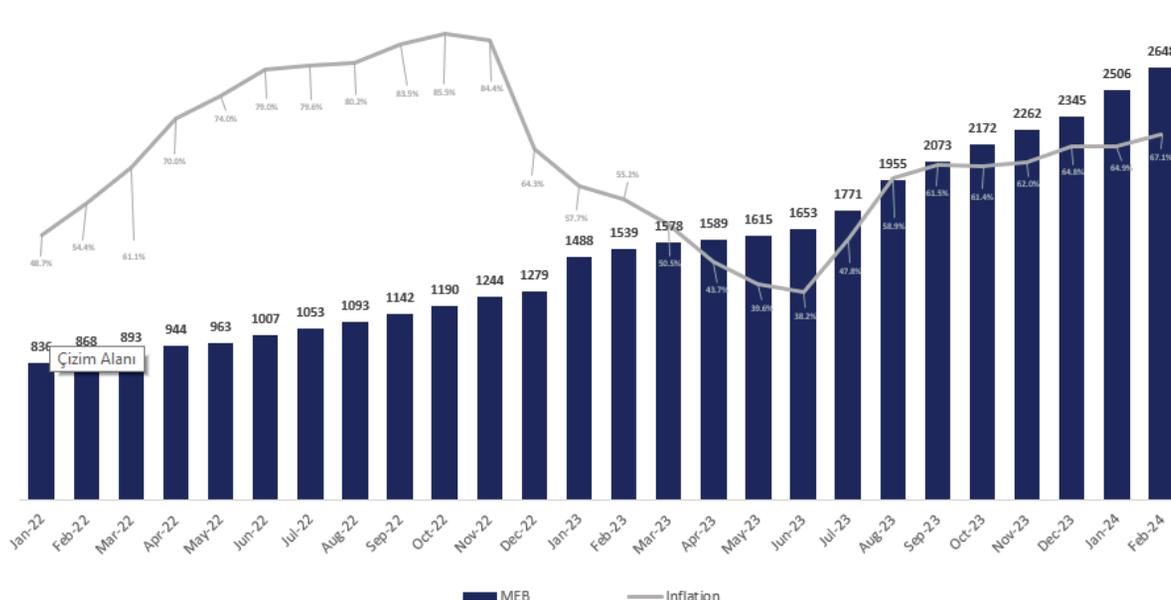


Figure 1 Türkiye Earthquake Response MEB Cost Analysis

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 - February 2024," Turkish Statistical Institute, <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Consumer-Price-Index-February-2024-53623&dil=2>

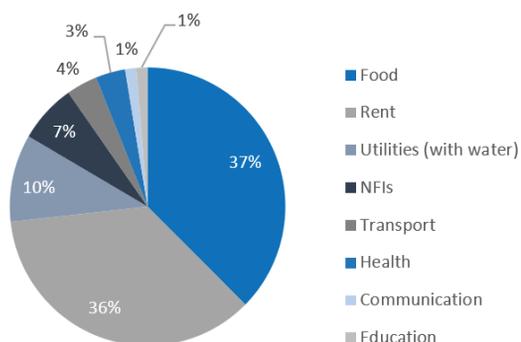


Figure 2 Share of MEB Items

Figure 2 shows the percentages associated with various items within the MEB. The analysis indicates that the two largest contributors to the MEB are food at 37 percent and rent at 36 percent. Utilities and non-food items account for 10 percent and 7 percent of the MEB, respectively. Transportation and health costs contribute by 4 percent and 3 percent, respectively, while the least contributors are communication and education at 1

Commodities	5 People Household (TRY)	Per Person Share (TRY)
Food	4.956	991
Rent	4.741	948
Utilities (with water)	1.347	269
NFIs	906	181
Health	462	92
Education	174	35
Transport	482	96
Communication	172	34
<b>MEB Cost*</b>	<b>13.239</b>	<b>2.648</b>

Figure 3 Households MEB Components

\*Calculations might slightly differ between household and individual costs due to the rounding of decimals.

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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