

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 KIZILAYKART (Turkish Red Crescent) collaborated on a study using the Minimum Expenditure Basket¹ (MEB) methodology and analysis. This paper aimed to support emergency response efforts by assessing and measuring basic needs. Despite the time that has passed since these catastrophic earthquakes, relief efforts continue in the most affected regions.

Based on pre-earthquake population data and field assessments, the average earthquake-affected household consists of five people, including two children and three adults. The food component of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) covers expenditures related to a nutrient-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 TURKSTAT².

In March 2024, the cost of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) increased by 2.94 percent compared to February 2024, reaching 2,726 TRY per individual and



13,629 TRY for a household of five. Although food prices were reduced slightly with the start of Spring season, increases in the rent, utilities, and NFIs components, which account for more than 50 percent of the MEB value, led to the increase in the MEB value. In addition, the annual inflation rate continued to rise, reaching 68.5 percent, while the monthly inflation rate was 3.16 percent.

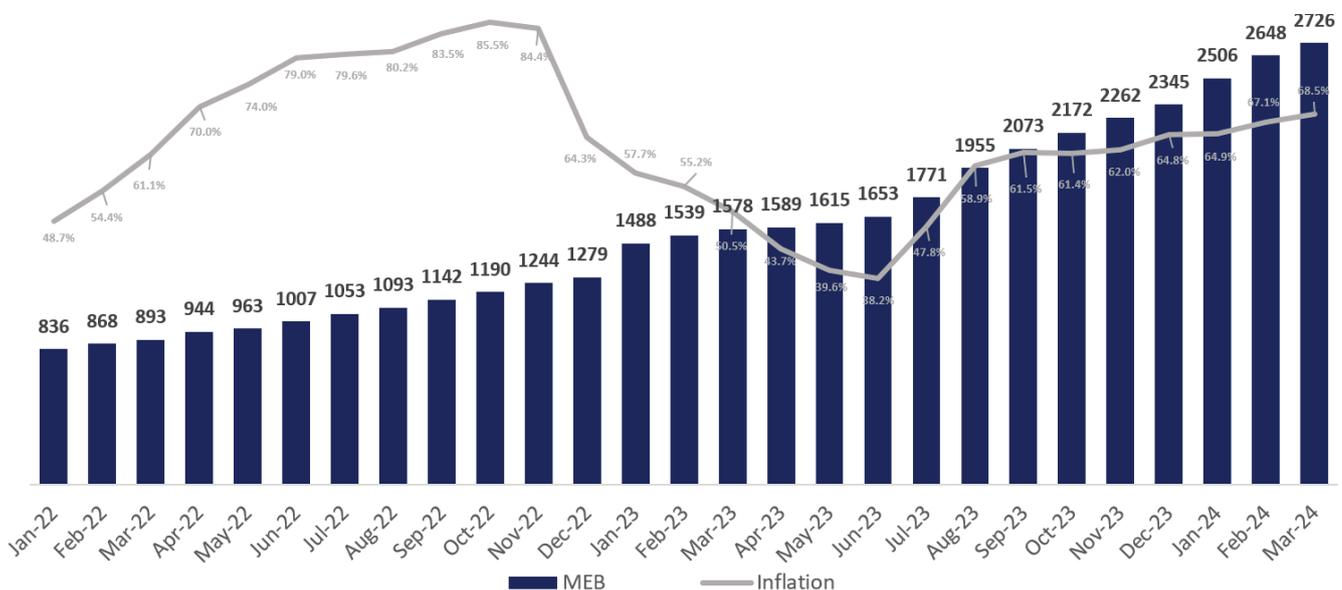


Figure 1 Türkiye Earthquake Response MEB Cost Analysis

1 For details of the MEB methodology and analysis: https://platform.kizilaykart.org/en/Doc/rapor/MEB_report.pdf

2 TURKSTAT, "Consumer Price Index - January 2024," Turkish Statistical Institute. <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Consumer-Price-Index-January-2024-53622>

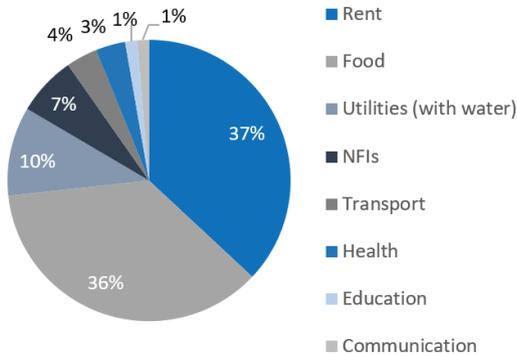


Figure 2 Share of MEB Items

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 37 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 Share (TRY)
Food	4,945	989
Rent	5,041	1,008
Utilities (with water)	1,396	279
NFIs	928	186
Health	462	92
Education	186	37
Transport	489	98
Communication	183	37
MEB Cost*	13,629	2,726

Figure 3 Households MEB Components

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

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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