



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Türkiye Country Brief May 2022

### Operational Context

Türkiye hosts the highest number of refugees in the world, 4 million people, of which 3.7 million are from Syria. Around 51,000 refugees reside in 7 camps located in the country's south-east, while the majority live in cities and villages throughout the country. The Government of Türkiye has demonstrated leadership and generosity in providing for the needs of these people. Since June 2014, a temporary protection regime has granted Syrians access to basic services such as healthcare and education. Refugees of other countries continue to benefit from International Protection status. WFP re-established a presence in Türkiye in 2012, in response to the Syria crisis.

WFP Türkiye's [Interim Country Strategic Plan](#) (ICSP 2020-2022) seeks to build on WFP's partnership with the Government of Türkiye and other stakeholders to contribute to refugee households' ability to meet their basic needs, ensuring no vulnerable refugee is left behind. Considering the protracted refugee presence in Türkiye, the ICSP includes longer-term activities including direct engagement in resilience programming that creates opportunities for refugees and host communities alike. The current ICSP has been extended to the end of 2022. The CSP (2023-2025) is under development and will be reviewed during the November 2022 Executive Board.



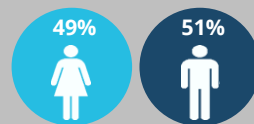
Population of Türkiye:  
**84.7 million**

Poverty Rate: **28.7 percent** living below the national poverty line (TUIK)

Income Level: **Upper middle**

2019 Human Development Index:  
**54 out of 189**

### In Numbers



**47,387 beneficiaries** assisted in May 2022 (estimated).

**US\$ 422,729** distributed through value vouchers

**US\$ 132,974** distributed through vocational and applied trainings (estimated)

**US\$ 3.8 m** six-month net funding requirements (June 2022 – November 2022)

### Operational Updates

- The implementation of the e-voucher programme with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) continued with no interruptions. In May, 42,387 refugees living in six camps across southeastern Türkiye received monthly assistance of Turkish Lira (TRY) 150 (USD 10) per person. These cash transfers help in-camp residents meet their basic needs.
- The Q1 2022 In-Camp Price Market Monitoring (PMM), On-Site Monitoring (OSM) and Protection reports showed that although the first quarter of 2022 was marked by a continuous decrease in the number of camp beneficiaries - from 43,655 in January to 43,002 in March - this trend was slower than the previous months due to the economic conditions which increased the cost of living in urban areas including rental fees.
- The Socioeconomic Empowerment and Sustainability (SES) Programme, WFP's flagship livelihoods programme in Türkiye, continued to train refugees and members of the host community to help them gain the skills they need to access employment. As of May, a total of 648 participants pursued either vocational or applied training in 13 provinces (Adana, Ankara, Bursa, Gaziantep, Hatay, Istanbul, Izmir, Kayseri, Kocaeli, Konya, Mersin, Sanliurfa and Sivas) across the country. Trainings available in May included chef assistant, pastry chef assistant, information technologies, food packaging, store attendant as well as computer numerically-controlled (CNC) operator trainings. SES was officially launched in August 2021 and is implemented in close collaboration with the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) and the Turkish Employment Agency (ISKUR).

**Interim Country Strategic Plan (2020-2022)**

Total Requirements (USD)	Total Received (USD)
<b>250 m</b>	<b>207 m</b>
2022 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (USD) (June 2022 – November 2022)
<b>32 m</b>	<b>3.8 m</b>

**Strategic Result 8:** Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

**Strategic Outcome #1:** Enhance partnerships to support refugees and vulnerable populations, affected by prolonged refugee presence in Türkiye to equitably access basic needs assistance and labour market opportunities.

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

[WFP Turkey 2021 Annual Country Report](#) **New**

- During the period of 8-18 May, Colombian Chef Charlie Otero visited Türkiye for a ten-days trip during which he cooked and shared his experience with SES participants and teachers in the provinces of Ankara, Hatay, Istanbul and Izmir. SES participants learned new cooking techniques and gained new insights into Latin American cuisine.
- A school feeding expert from WFP’s Headquarters visited the country office to conduct field visits and kickstart an investment case for the school meal programme that MoNE has already in place and is willing to scale up with WFP’s support. The programme targets around 1.5 million school children at all levels during the current school year. WFP will provide technical support to widen its scope at the primary school level.

**Monitoring**

- The Q1 2022 In-Camp Price Market Monitoring (PMM), On-Site Monitoring (OSM), and Protection Report results showed that as of March 2022, the food basket cost in the contracted markets inside the camps reached TRY 353 (USD 23), representing a 87 increase compared to March 2021 (TRY 189/ USD 12).
- In January 2022, while beneficiaries were satisfied with the increase in the cash transfer value, they stressed that a TRY 30 increase is not aligned with the current inflation rate and is not enough to deal with the price surge. However, in view of the decrease of work opportunities during the winter season, the one-off top-up payment of TRY 1300 (USD 85) that each household received in two instalments, in February and March, prevented further deterioration of food security outcomes of the beneficiaries.

**Assessment**

- Given that Türkiye depends on imported energy, the increased energy prices and the devaluation of the local currency led to the highest inflation rates since 1995. The USD-TRY exchange rate almost doubled from TRY 8.60 (USD 0.6) in June 2021 to TRY 16.4 in June 2022. The price of petrol liter increased almost four-fold from TRY 7.8 (USD 1.1) to TRY 26.2 (USD 1.7) during the same period. Inflation in transportation more than doubled (108 percent) between May 2021 and 2022, and the energy cost in production increased by 300 percent. The increase in production costs reached 132 percent, and as a result, the annual inflation peaked at 74 percent in May 2022. Moreover, the food inflation is as high as 92 percent in May 2022 .
- The latest Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) cost was TRY 925 (USD 60) per person per month as of April 2022, showing a 60 percent increase from TRY 557 (USD 36) in April 2021. Even though the Government increased minimum wage by 50 percent increase to TRY 4250 (USD 278) in January 2022, the cost of the MEB for a five-people surpassed the minimum wage four months later. According to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the inflation forecast for the end of the year is around 55 percent, and the USD is expected to be 17.57 against TRY.



**Caption:** SES participant during the CNC operator in the province of Hatay. Credit: WFP/WFP Türkiye

**Donors**

Germany, Ireland, Norway, the Republic of Korea, USAID/BHA.