



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Turkey
Country Brief
April 2022

Operational Context

Turkey 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 Turkey 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 Turkey in 2012, in response to the Syria crisis.

WFP Turkey's [Interim Country Strategic Plan](#) (ICSP 2020-2022) seeks to build on WFP's partnership with the Government of Turkey 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 Turkey, 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 Turkey:
83.2 million

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

Income Level: **Upper middle**

2019 Human Development Index:
54 out of 189

In Numbers



47,312 beneficiaries assisted in April 2022

US\$419,996 distributed through value vouchers

US\$129,940 distributed through vocational and applied trainings (estimated)

US\$3.8 m six-month net funding requirements (May 2022 - October 2022)

Operational Updates

- The implementation of the e-voucher programme in six Temporary Accommodation Centers across southeastern Turkey with the Turkish Red Crescent continued with no interruptions. In April, 42,113 refugees were assisted through monthly transfers of Turkish Lira (TRY) 150 (USD 10) per person to help them meet their basic needs.
- Many of the in-camp residents who previously left the camps are applying to re-enter them in light of the lack of job opportunities and the economic turmoil in the country.
- The Top-Up Satisfaction Survey that followed the delivery of an extra TRY 1,300 (USD 89) per camp household in two equal instalments in February and in March has been finalized. Beneficiaries stated that this assistance helped them buy items such as bread, oil, sugar, salt and bulgur, but it wasn't enough for them to buy more expensive food items, such as meat.
- The Socioeconomic Empowerment and Sustainability (SES) Programme, WFP's flagship livelihoods programme rolled out in collaboration with the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) and the Turkish Employment Agency, continued to enhance the self-reliance of both refugees and members of the host community. As of April, 852 participants, 56 percent of whom are female, were active either in vocational or applied training in 14 provinces (Adana, Ankara, Bursa, Gaziantep, Hatay, Istanbul, Izmir, Kahramanmaraş, Kayseri, Kocaeli, Konya, Mersin, Sanliurfa and Sivas). The ongoing trainings in April were chef assistant, IT, food packaging, store attendant, CNC operator and housekeeping trainings.
- WFP pursued its efforts to expand its partnership network to widen SES' scope and sector of intervention and sustained its outreach activities to attract more potential participants.
- As part of the SES activities, WFP started planning a Chef Tour that will take place between 9-19 May 2022 in the provinces of Ankara, Hatay, Istanbul and Izmir. A Colombian Chef, Charlie Otero, will cook and share his culinary knowledge and tips with SES participants and teachers.

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Caption: SES chef assistant training participants cooking together during the vocational training in the province of Adana. **Photo:** WFP.

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2020-2022)

Total Requirements (USD)	Total Received (USD)
250 m	207 m
2022 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (USD) (May 2022 – October 2022)
32 m	3.8 m

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 Turkey to equitably access basic needs assistance and labour market opportunities.
Focus area: Resilience Building

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

- WFP finalized the Memorandum of Understanding with MoNE to define the roles and responsibilities of both parties in the school meals investment case.. MoNE already has a school meals programme in place which targets around 1.5 million school children at all levels. However, WFP will provide technical support to scale it up at the primary school level.

Assessment

Between August 2021 and March 2022, the Socioeconomic Empowerment and Sustainability (SES) Programme reached almost 6,000 people (1,597 participants and their families). 56 percent of these beneficiaries are women and 48 percent are Syrian or have Syrian origins. While 900 participants are pursuing the trainings, 38 percent of those who graduated from the Vocational Training and are no longer in Applied Training have found long-term employment outside of the project. 63 percent of participants to the training on IT sector found employment, whereas 30 percent of participants of the training on Food, Beverage, Service and Hospitality Sector (FBSH) was employed..It is important to consider that COVID-19 disproportionately affected employment in the hospitality sector. 47 percent and 34 percent of employed training participants are women and of Syrian origin, respectively. In addition, 71 percent of long-term employed participants have found formal employment and 30 percent reported working as highly skilled professionals.

Multipurpose conditional cash transfers provided to the participants a mean to contribute to the household economy despite being paid to individuals. Data collected at household level shows that 81 percent and 89 percent of the participant households in FBSH and IT sectors respectively, had the economic capacity to meet their essential needs by the end of the programme cycle, exceeding baseline and target values.

Story from the field

Sadika came to Turkey from Syria's Ar-Raqqa in 2013 with her family. A real learning enthusiast, she has always dreamed of gaining a profession and taking her first step towards the labour market. But the 36-year-old faced her family's objection several times before finally reaching her goals – something worth the struggle.

Sadika and her family first stayed at a relative's house in a small village in Turkey. Given the limited opportunities for improvement, they decided to move to the southern province of Sanliurfa in 2014 with the hope of starting a new life, socializing with locals and learning Turkish. At the same time, this move marked the beginning of Sadika's learning journey. "My only wish is to learn new things, so I attended many courses such as IT, nursing and English language classes," she explains.

Things took a different direction when the mother of three took part in the Socioeconomic Empowerment and Sustainability (SES) Programme back in November 2021. "The good thing about this programme is that you get to put into practice what you learned," she explains. Although her family didn't want her to work, Sadika never stopped fighting for what she loves doing the most. "I believe that a woman should work with perseverance. I've always felt that there's something missing in my life, but now I look at myself from a different perspective."



Caption: Sadika (right), is one of the many Syrian refugees and Turkish nationals being trained under SES Programme. **Photo:** WFP.

Donors

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