



SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Turkey

Country Brief
December 2021

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.



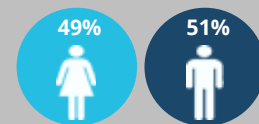
Population of Turkey:
83.2 million

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

Income Level: **Upper middle**

2019 Human Development Index:
54 out of 189

In Numbers



47,729 beneficiaries assisted in December 2021
(estimated)

420,203 USD distributed through value vouchers

45,935 USD distributed through vocational and on-the-job trainings (estimated)

USD 9.2 m six-month net funding requirements
(January 2022 – June 2022)

Operational Updates

- In December, 44,459 refugees living in six camps across South-eastern Turkey received monthly assistance of TRY 120 (USD 9). In view of the high inflation levels observed in Q4 2021, the food basket cost at contracted markets reached a record high of TRY 232 (USD 18) in November 2021. In response, the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) in December approved a permanent increase in the monthly transfer value from TRY 120 to TRY 150 (USD 12) and a one-off top-up of TRY 1300 (USD 102) to each in-camp household. In-camp refugees will receive the increased assistance starting from January 2022 while the top-up is planned for the first quarter of 2022.
- The Socioeconomic Empowerment and Sustainability (SES) Programme, implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) and the Turkish Employment Agency (ISKUR), continued to enhance the self-reliance of refugees and Turkish nationals. Throughout December, 263 participants attended Chef Assistant and Food Packaging trainings in nine provinces (Adana, Gaziantep, Istanbul, Izmir, Kayseri, Konya, Mersin, Sanliurfa and Sivas) and 113 participants pursued Housekeeping, Chef Assistant and IT applied trainings in eight provinces (Adana, Ankara, Hatay, Izmir, Kayseri, Konya, Mersin and Sanliurfa). WFP continues to establish new partnerships with the private sector to provide SES graduates with applied training and permanent employment opportunities.
- This month, 22 businesses donated 7,239 meals distributed to 55 vulnerable households, corresponding to an estimated 250 refugees and members of the host community, under the Network Fresh project implemented in Istanbul. By December, the total number of meals delivered added up to 18,893 since the beginning of the project in July 2021, significantly exceeding the target of 7,800 meals set at the onset of the project. Furthermore, Sisli Municipality, WFP's partner for the project, conducted a satisfaction survey which reflected a high level of satisfaction amongst assisted households.

Contact info: turkey.info@wfp.org
Country Director: Nils Grede
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/turkey

Photo 1 caption: SES participants during the Chef Assistant training in the province of Kahramanmaraş.
Photo: WFP/Feride Yildirim.

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2020-2022)

Total Requirements (USD)	Total Received (USD)
250 m	205 m
2022 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (USD) (January 2022 – June 2022)
32 m	9.2 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

Kitchen of Hope Assessment

- A research was conducted to assess the Kitchen of Hope pilot programme implemented between 2019-2021 aiming to help refugees and members of the host community gain culinary skills through vocational and applied training. In collaboration with two Turkish academics, the research put forward lessons learned captured already by WFP and under implementation. Key findings highlighted the gains in terms of skills and self-confidence among participants and the societal benefits generated such as improving the existing curriculum of the Ministry of National Education (MoNE), covering the personnel costs of trainees during applied training, providing lifelong learning opportunities for trainers and equipping training centers.
- On the other side, the research found that further efforts are needed to strengthen the job matching mechanisms of prospective employers and create a network of graduates and employers to improve employment and impact sustainability. Moreover, incorporating lifelong learning opportunities and networking of trainers into vocation training is also essential.
- Although the programme achieved a 50 percent employment rate, half of the employed participants work at the applied training locations and 60 percent of their jobs is informal. To facilitate the transition from informal to formal employment, WFP works in close collaboration with ISKUR to match participants with employers willing to hire them.

Monitoring

- WFP Market Bulletin Quarter 4 2021 findings showed a significant increase in the prices of several food items. By December 2021, inflation reached its peak in 2021 with annual and food inflation reaching 36 and 44 percent respectively. This, in turn, was reflected in the year-to-year rise in food prices, such as sunflower oil (71 percent), bread (51 percent), yoghurt (53 percent), eggs (51 percent) and rice (16 percent). The Minimum Expenditure Basket cost also increased from TRY 559 to TRY 731 from January to December 2021, demonstrating the alarming rise in the basic cost of living throughout the year.

WFP in the Media

- In December, WFP Turkey Representative and Country Director Nils Grede was interviewed by a national mainstream TV channel [Habertürk](#) and a business newspaper [Dünya](#). Different topics were brought to the table, such as SES Programme's added value and the relationship between hunger, climate crisis and conflict. Mr Grede also attended the Global Hope Festival as a keynote speaker and provided a snapshot on WFP programmes assisting the most vulnerable populations.

Success Story

Afef is a baker by heart and profession. Originally from Tunisia, Afef is a Kitchen of Hope (Mutfakta Umut Var/MUV) project graduate in Ankara, now living her dreams thanks to the project and her remarkable baking skills. After completing the vocational and applied trainings during which she developed her skills and learned new cooking techniques, she opened an Instagram account to promote her work and receive orders.

Today, Afef sells a wide variety of mouthwatering desserts she bakes at home, such as croissants, cookies and cinnamon rolls.

She also customizes cakes to satisfy her customers' sweet tooth. "Joining MUV has been a turning point in my life. The applied training has been extremely useful, and I really liked the place I worked at. I focused on learning how to make sugar paste. It was not easy at first but was worth all the effort," she says.

MUV was implemented between 2019 and 2021 to help refugees and Turkish citizens gain culinary skills by bringing together vocational and applied trainings. WFP continues to provide chef assistant trainings under the ongoing SES Programme.



Donors

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

Photo 1 caption: Afef preparing a cake during MUV vocational training in the capital Ankara.

Photo: WFP/Faranak Sharifi