



World Food Programme

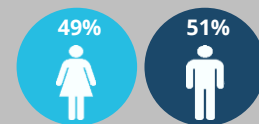
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Turkey

Country Brief
March 2022

In Numbers



45,332 beneficiaries assisted in March 2022 (estimated).

USD 842,227 distributed through value vouchers

USD 28,892 distributed through vocational and on-the-job trainings (estimated)

USD 2.7 m six-month net funding requirements (April 2022 – September 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 (TUIK)

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

Operational Updates

- Under the e-voucher programme implemented in collaboration with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), 43,002 refugees living in six camps across southeastern Turkey received monthly assistance of Turkish Lira (TRY) 150 (USD 11) per person. Increasing from TRY 120 (USD 7) as of January 2022, this assistance helps in-camp residents meet their needs amidst high inflation rates that reached 36 percent at the end of 2021.
- In addition to the aforementioned monthly transfers, 8,610 refugee households received TRY 650 (USD 47), the second tranche of a top-up of TRY 1,300 (USD 94) delivered in two instalments – one in February and the second in March.
- As of March, 655 participants pursued either vocational or applied training in 14 provinces (Adana, Ankara, Bursa, Gaziantep, Hatay, Istanbul, Izmir, Kahramanmaraş, Kayseri, Kocaeli, Konya, Mersin, Sanliurfa and Sivas) across Turkey. These trainings are delivered under the Socioeconomic Empowerment and Sustainability (SES) Programme implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) and the Turkish Employment Agency (ISKUR) to enhance the self-reliance of refugees and Turkish nationals alike. The list of trainings comprise chef assistant, food packaging, store attendant, IT, CNC operator and housekeeping.
- WFP continues to explore ways to widen its partnership network and, therefore, increase SES' geographical reach and diversify its participants' applied training opportunities.
- With the delivery of the last batch of raw materials to Sultangazi Municipality's (Istanbul) Soup Kitchen, the Soup Kitchen project officially came to a close in March. This project was launched in July 2020 as a COVID-19-response to support seven local municipalities' soup kitchens to cook and deliver approximately 11,000 hot meals on a daily basis to vulnerable households. The project ended in January 2021 in seven municipalities and continued in Sultangazi until March 2022.
- Discussions with new potential partners to scale up the Network Fresh project, or As Ortagam in Turkish, that addresses food waste are ongoing. This project's pilot was implemented with Sisli Municipality (Istanbul) in 2021, reaching 55 families with a total of 18,893 meals between June 2021 and December 2021.

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Caption: A CNC Operator training participant during the vocational training in Hatay. 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) (April 2022 – September 2022)
32 m	2.7 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 is still working on the Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) to define the framework of the school meals investment case (CBA) and is planning to finalize it by mid-April. 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.
- WFP is currently working on incorporating the Government's comments into its new Country Strategic Plan draft and will share it with the WFP Regional Bureau in Cairo by mid-April.

Assessment

- The Decentralized Evaluation for SES continued within the given timeline. The Orientation Meeting with the Evaluation Team (ET) was held on 2 March and the Inception Meeting with internal and external stakeholders, such as the Government, donors and private companies, took place on 16 March. The ET is now working on the draft Inception Report, which is expected to be submitted by 5 April.
- The Ukrainian crisis added more pressure on the Turkish economy as Turkey relies on energy imports from Russia, wheat and sunflower oil imports from both Ukraine and Russia and is a significant vegetable and fruit exporter to countries in the Black Sea trade zone. Also, the increase in energy prices caused the inflation in transportation costs to reach 99 percent between March 2021 and 2022, whereas the already-high annual inflation is actualized at 61 percent. As such, the interruption in all supply chains in the Black Sea and the risk of higher cost of end products on the consumers' side in Turkey is concerning for the upcoming period.

Events and Visits

- On 30-31 March, German Development Bank KfW representatives held a series of meetings in Ankara and Sanliurfa and visited the implementation of the SES programme in Sanliurfa. The delegation met with six former SES participants currently employed at a ceramic factory, school managers, trainers and participants of ongoing chef assistant training.
- As part of its efforts to make the best of its collaboration with its partners, WFP organized a workshop between 28-30 March and came together with ISKUR to share knowledge, discuss many aspects of SES and talk about the way forward. This event was attended by approximately 90 ISKUR representatives from around 12 provinces.

Story from the field

Meet Feyza, a 19-year-old Turkish budding chef who graduated from high-school only two years ago but is now making her path with SES. Feyza had to work at a young age to support her family's income. This, in turn, precluded her from attending the chef assistant training although she has a passion for cooking. "I've always wanted to be part of this programme but couldn't given that I was occupied with my job," she explains. With her cousin's support, the one who believed in her abilities, Feyza decided to apply to SES and got accepted. She is now happier than ever and is finally doing what she enjoys doing the most. "I love cooking and I used to prepare dishes at home with available ingredients. But here I learned a lot of new recipes and this is an added value for me," she says. Sharing the joy of preparing a Turkish dish by herself during the vocational training, Feyza explains that her goal is to keep growing in this sector to become a chef. "I want the chefs during the applied training that I will attend to like my work so that I get hired," she says.



Caption: Feyza while preparing a Turkish dish called Cokertme during the SES Chef Assistant vocational training in Adana. Photo:

Donors

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