



SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Turkey

Country Brief
October 2021

Operational Context

Turkey hosts the highest number of refugees in the world, 4 million people, of which 3.6 million are from Syria. Around 60,000 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 2020-2021) 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. WFP is also set to extend its current ICSP for one year through 2022.



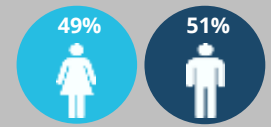
Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

Population of Turkey: **83.2 million**

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

In Numbers



47,472 people assisted in October 2021 (estimated)

622,281 USD distributed through value vouchers

34,709 USD distributed through vocational and on-the-job trainings (estimated)

USD 6.9 m six-month net funding requirements (November 2021 – April 2022)

Operational Updates

- In October, WFP and its partner, the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), continued to assist 45,997 refugees residing in six camps across south-eastern Turkey. This assistance is provided under the e-voucher programme and equals TRY 120 (USD 14) per person, of which TRY 100 is allocated for food items.
- Although the number of in-camp residents voluntarily leaving the camps was higher in the summer, the decreasing trend persisted in October, as many opt for settling in city centers and in other provinces to seek better opportunities for themselves and for their families.
- WFP, with the support of its partners, continued to implement its flagship livelihoods programme, the Socioeconomic Empowerment and Sustainability (SES), that offers a wide array of trainings to both Syrian refugees and Turkish nationals. This month, 342 participants attended Chef Assistant, Store Attendant, Housekeeping and IT trainings in 13 provinces (Adana, Ankara, Bursa, Hatay, Istanbul, Izmir, Kahramanmaras, Kayseri, Kocaeli, Konya, Mardin, Mersin, Sanliurfa). Also, WFP pursues its efforts to widen its partnerships portfolio that will translate into more applied training opportunities for SES graduates.
- WFP received the first draft of the research conducted by Turkish academics on WFP's livelihoods' project model which combines both technical and applied trainings to increase refugees' and host community's self-reliance. This research will be finalized by the end of November 2021 and will be used to showcase livelihood interventions' models that may be replicated in other countries.
- The Soup Kitchen assistance continued in Istanbul with the delivery of daily hot meals to both vulnerable refugees and Turkish nationals through Sultangazi Municipality's soup kitchen. This assistance was initially launched as a COVID-19 response back in July 2020 in seven provinces.

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Photo caption: First day of WFP Food Packaging training in Ankara. Photo: WFP/Faranak Sharifi

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2020-2021)

Total Requirements (USD)	Total Received (USD)
225 m	205 m
2021 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (USD) (November 2021 – April 2022)
31 m	6.9 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

- The number of meals distributed under Network Fresh (Aş Ortağı) pilot project significantly increased from 990 in September 2021 to 2367 in October, indicating a 150 percent spike. Similarly, the number of beneficiaries benefitting from Network Fresh rose from 35 to 70 during the same period. With 67 more businesses agreeing to becoming active donation points, the number of suppliers is expected to increase significantly in the upcoming months.

In-Camp Residents Vulnerability

- A profiling exercise attempting to identify in-camp refugees heavily affected by the deteriorating Turkish economy was conducted in Q3 2021. This exercise aims to respond to two sets of research questions: i) Do in-camp refugees cover their essential needs, and if not, what needs are not covered? ii) How vulnerable are the in-camp beneficiaries, and who exhibits particularly high vulnerabilities?
- Findings revealed that 26 percent of camp residents don't have the economic capacity to cover their basic needs. Also, 21 percent of them are highly vulnerable and additional 30 percent are moderately vulnerable. Furthermore, some household characteristics are associated with monetary poverty and vulnerability. In this regard, large-sized households (nine or more members), households with dependents or members with special needs (disabled individuals, chronically ill household members, separated children, elderly people and pregnant or breast-feeding women), indebted households and single female parents are identified as either poor, vulnerable or both.

Pandemic Update

- In October, the number of daily COVID-19 infections continued to increase, exceeding 30,000 on 11 October alone. As the vaccination campaign continues, recent statistics showed that 13 million people who are eligible for the jab are still unvaccinated.
- The Health Minister announced that booster shots recommended for people vaccinated with two doses of Pfizer-BioNTech will be administered as of 4 November.

In the meantime, WFP continues to implement safety measures to minimize the risk of infection among its project participants, cooperating partners and staff.

Events

On 24 October, WFP took part in Gastrofest Festival, an event held in the western province of Izmir that aims to highlight the provinces' gastronomic potential and turns it into a world destination in this regard. WFP's participation consisted of introducing its activities in Turkey in addition to the contribution of WFP Turkey Deputy Country Director, Margaret Rehm, to the discussions about the impact of climate change on food systems.



Photo caption: WFP's team in Izmir during Gastrofest Festival that took place in Izmir on 24 October. Photo:

Success Story

Merve went from being a Kitchen of Hope (Mutfakta Umut Var/MUV) project participant to a professional trainer in the culinary sector. Showing great skills and dedication during the training, her teacher was impressed with her performance and recommended her for her current job. Merve, who received previous training at a younger age, says that being part of MUV helped her to extend her knowledge and put it into practice. "Although I graduated from Food and Beverage Department at high school, I got the chance to practice even more during MUV," she says. MUV was implemented between 2019 and 2021 in seven provinces to help both Syrian refugees and Turkish nationals gain culinary skills.



Photo caption: Merve slicing chicken during the MUV vocational training. Photo: WFP/Feride Yildirim.

Donors

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