



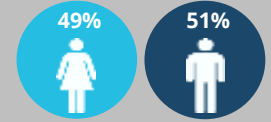
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Turkey

Country Brief
September 2021

In Numbers



48,854 people assisted in September 2021 (estimated)

USD 631,170.24 distributed through value vouchers

USD 55,000 distributed through vocational and on-the-job trainings (estimated)

USD 7 m six-month net funding requirements (October 2021 – March 2022)

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 (TLIK)

Population of Turkey: **83.2 million**

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

Operational Updates

- 46,654 beneficiaries received monthly assistance of TRY 120 (USD 14) per person under the e-voucher programme across six camps in the southeast. The number of in-camp residents continues to decrease gradually, as many decide to leave the camp voluntarily. Preliminary results of the Post Distribution Monitoring for Q3 2021 show that while some beneficiaries have been impacted by the increasing prices at the camps' markets and beyond, others are grateful for the assistance as well as the health and education services available at the camps.
- Launched in August 2021, WFP's new livelihoods programme, the Socioeconomic Empowerment and Sustainability (SES), continued with 500 participants who pursued their Chef Assistant, Store Attendant, Housekeeping and IT skills - Empowerment in Action (EMPACT) vocational training in 13 provinces (Adana, Ankara, Bursa, Hatay, Istanbul, Izmir, Kahramanmaraş, Kayseri, Kocaeli, Konya, Mardin, Mersin and Sanliurfa).
- By the end of September, 49 out of 112 graduates of the IT Digital skills programme (EMPACT) were employed, taking the employment rate to 44 percent. This number includes participants who found jobs in IT companies and those who set up their own businesses in the sector. Under SES, a new cohort composed of both advanced and entry level EMPACT participants started their vocational training in September in four provinces (Ankara, Istanbul, Izmir, Mersin).
- The Kitchen of Hope (Mutfakta Umut Var/MUV) project ended, reaching a total of 2,080 beneficiaries in nine provinces. This project achieved an employment rate of 35 percent.
- WFP is currently conducting research on the model that combines both technical and applied trainings with the aim to integrate refugees into the economy. Results are expected to be finalized in October 2021, and will be used to capture lessons learned, while informing models that may be replicated in other countries.
- The Soup Kitchen assistance continues in Istanbul with the delivery of daily hot meals to both vulnerable refugees and Turkish nationals through Sultangazi Municipality's soup kitchen.

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Photo caption: Surplus meals are ready to be delivered to beneficiaries under the Network Fresh Project.
Photo: Sisli Municipality.

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2020-2021)

Total Requirements (USD)	Total Received (USD)
225 m	193 m
2021 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (USD) (October 2021 – March 2022)
36 m	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

- Under the Network Fresh (Aş Ortağım) Pilot Project, 920 surplus meals were distributed to 35 beneficiaries, tripling from 362 meals in July 2021. Three suppliers are currently providing surplus meals, but after the official launch, 64 new businesses have agreed to become active donation points following intensive outreach activities conducted in September. This increase in partners will grow beneficiary household exponentially.
- The harvest and the sales of okra continued in September as part of the Urban Agriculture Project implemented in Istanbul's Buyukcekmece district. Attended by twenty female participants (10 Syrians, 10 Turkish), the project concluded on 30 September 2021.

Meta-Analysis

- WFP finalized the meta-analysis exercise which started in July 2020 in collaboration with the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and with the support of RBC. This analysis sheds light on the impact and the lessons learned from the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) Programme implemented in Turkey between 2016 and 2020 and includes three focus areas:
 - The ESSN design and implementation.
 - Vulnerability analysis and targeting criteria.
 - ESSN's intended/unintended impact on beneficiaries, nonbeneficiaries and the Turkish economy.

Pandemic Update

- The increase in the number of daily COVID-19 infections persisted in September, fluctuating around 28,000 cases. The vaccination campaign that started in mid-January 2021 also continued and the number of jabs administered in the country surpassed 110 million. In the meantime, WFP continues to implement safety measures to minimize the risk of infection among its project participants, cooperating partners and staff.

Events

- The official launch event of the Network Fresh Project took place on 8 September in Istanbul's Sisli district with the participation of the mayor, consul generals, prominent food business representatives, representatives of the public and private sectors, UN agencies, chefs, etc. The event included a cocktail and live music.



Photo caption: WFP Turkey Country Director and Representative Nils Grede giving a speech during the Network Fresh Project launch event in Istanbul. **Photo:** Sisli Municipality.

- A cooking event was organized on 27 September in collaboration with Buyukcekmece Municipality in Istanbul to introduce and promote the okra harvested under the Urban Agriculture project.



Photo caption: Professional chefs cooking different dishes with the okra harvested under the Urban Agriculture Project. **Photo:** WFP/Tumay Cansiz.

Donors

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