Operational Context

Turkey currently hosts the highest number of refugees in the world. 4 million people, of which 3.57 million are from Syria. Around 63,500 refugees reside in 7 camps located in the southeast, 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 populations. Since June 2011, a temporary protection regime has granted Syrians access to basic services such as healthcare and education. Refugees of other nationalities 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) builds 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 adds longer-term activities by increasing direct engagement in resilience programming that creates opportunities for refugees and host communities alike.

In Numbers

1.78 m people assisted
In January 2020

US$ 38 m distributed in multi-purpose cash

US$0.92 m distributed through value vouchers

US$24 million six-month net funding requirements (February – July 2020)

Operational Updates

- WFP, in partnership with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC/Kizilay) and the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (MoFLSS), with funding from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), continued to deliver assistance through the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN), the world’s largest humanitarian multi-purpose cash programme.

- In January, the ESSN assisted nearly 1.73 million vulnerable refugees across Turkey, providing each person with TRY 120 (USD 20) to help cover their essential needs. Of those, 8,929 people also received the monthly “severe disability top-up” payment of TRY 600 (USD 101).

- WFP supported 54,879 refugees in six camps across the southeast of Turkey with a monthly e-voucher worth TRY 100 (USD 17) to person to buy food and non-food items in participating shops. The slight increase in the camp population is due to the admission of vulnerable refugee families into the camps following the floods in Adana in December that affected 15,000 seasonal agricultural workers who live in tents in the region.

- In January, WFP signed a protocol with the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) for the implementation of the Mutfakta Umum Var (MUV, Kitchen of Hope), Cash-For-Training programme in 2020. In 2020, MUV aims to develop skills in the hospitality and food service industry for 600 participants (300 Syrians, 300 Turkish). It will also support MoNE to develop and refine the national curriculum for culinary skills programmes in vocational schools.

The first cohort of 194 participants across 7 provinces, selected from 6,700 applicants after a thorough review process, will start 3 months vocational training in February. Those who complete the training with at least 70 percent attendance will receive a vocational training certificate. This will allow them to continue with 3 months of on-the-job training.

Participants will receive a cash transfer of TRY 750 (USD 126) per month during the vocational training. For the on-the-job training, this amount will increase to the minimum wage (TRY 2,324/USD 390) complemented by social security incentives (TRY 161.89/USD 27).
WFP Country Strategy

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2020-2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>225 m</td>
<td>149 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 Requirements (in USD)</td>
<td>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (February – July 2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>189 m</td>
<td>24 m</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

Activities:
- Strengthen partnerships with national institutions and partners to improve programme implementation.
- Provide technical support to Government and partners in assisting refugees living in Turkish communities.
- Provide technical support to Government and partners in assisting refugees living in camps in Turkey.
- Provide technical support to Government and partners in assisting refugees and vulnerable populations to equitably access labour market opportunities.
- Support Turkey to exchange knowledge, experience and technology with other countries through facilitation of South-South and triangular cooperation.

Monitoring

- The October edition of the monthly ESSN Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) report was released in January. The FGDs investigated winter preparedness among refugees. Inquiries were made into problems faced by refugees during the winter season, related to their housing conditions, increased expenditure and the coping strategies used to overcome these problems.

- While participants mostly lived in apartments or houses connected to basic infrastructure services such as electricity, water and sewage systems, these buildings are poorly insulated. All participants explained they have increased bills for utilities, food, clothes, healthcare and transportation during the winter months. The most commonly reported strategies for getting ready for winter were buying winter clothes for children, coal or gas stoves, and stocking wood or coal. As in previous FGDs, participants reported reduced job opportunities during the winter months. Some households try to save money throughout the year to be able to pay their winter bills on time.

- In November and December, the FGDs investigated social cohesion. Participants voiced that there has been some increase in tension in their communication with the host community, but noted that the Turkish community still shows solidarity with the refugees in need by lending food items, donating household assets and helping during medical emergencies. They also mentioned that the refugee community, especially Syrian women, are showing solidarity towards elderly Turkish people, by visiting them and providing food. Despite unequal working conditions, participants who were employed reported having good interaction with co-workers and employers during the working hours.

- Language barriers along with cultural differences and stereotypes were cited as key hindering factors to effective communication across these culturally diverse groups.

- Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) data collected in camps covering WFP/TRC’s e-voucher programme in the last quarter of 2019 showed that the proportion of in-camp refugee households with acceptable food consumption decreased from 99 percent (Q1 2019) to 94 percent (Q4 2019) however the negative use of food-related and livelihood coping strategies declined. Due to camp closures and takeover of new camps, the Q1 and Q4 results are not fully comparable.

- WFP conducted a pre-assistance baseline (PAB) survey for the pilot phase of the Mutfakta Umut Var (MUV, Kitchen of Hope) project between May and July 2019, involving 117 participants. Among surveyed participants, 70 percent were women and 30 percent men; slightly more than half were Syrian. Among surveyed participants, 70 percent were women and 30 percent men; slightly more than half were Syrian. WFP conducted a PDM in December covering 55 participants. PAB and PDM findings showed that both women and men enjoyed highly acceptable food consumption levels. Results indicated that women who tend to be more vulnerable and inclined to change their long-term coping behaviours resorted more than men to coping strategies such as relying on less preferred or less expensive food or by spending savings. Furthermore, the frequency of resorting to livelihood strategies reduced for households headed by women, while they remained the same for households headed by men before and after the training.

Findings showed that 49 percent of Syrian MUV participants had never worked in Turkey, with a further 44 percent saying they had worked informally. The frequency of informal work was higher for men than women both among Turkish and Syrian participants. The main challenge to finding a job in Turkey for Syrians was the language barrier, while for Turkish participants it was the lack of experience.

Donors

European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), Germany, Ireland, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, USAID

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