



WFP Turkey Country Brief April 2020

Operational Context

Turkey currently hosts the highest number of refugees in the world, 4 million people, of which 3.58 million are from Syria. Around 63,600 refugees reside in 7 camps located in the 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 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.



Population of Turkey:
83.2 million

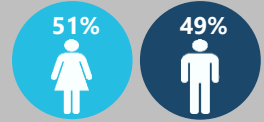
2019 Human Development Index:
59 out of 189 (0.806)

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

In Numbers

56,876 people assisted
In April 2020



US\$ 20,190 distributed in multi-purpose cash

US\$2.9 m distributed through value vouchers

US\$11.6 million six-month net funding requirements
(June - November 2020)

Operational Updates

- As of 30 April, 120,204 COVID-19 cases had been confirmed in Turkey, with 3,174 people deceased. Government measures in response to the pandemic include restriction of movement, the closing of schools and the suspension of internal and external air and land travel. To protect assisted people from the virus and its effects, WFP has introduced several adjustments to its activities and distribution modalities.
- WFP continues its support to 55,777 refugees in six camps with a monthly e-voucher payment of TRY 100 (USD 15) per person. In April, WFP also provided a one-off top-up of TRY 1,000 (USD 150) per household in line with the government transfer to vulnerable Turkish households of the same amount.
- In April, WFP distributed vouchers valued at TRY 100 (USD 15) per person to 299 new arrivals in Kahramanmaraş camp to support their food and non-food needs during their 14-day quarantine (a measure put in place due to COVID-19). With the support of the Directorate General for Migration Management and UNHCR, these refugees arrived at the camp from Turkey's western border with Greece and Northern Cyprus. Those who remain in the camps will be eligible for WFP's in-camp assistance, as well as for the one-time TRY 1,000 top-up (USD 150).
- On 16 April, WFP delivered 40,000 pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) to health workers providing health services to in-camp residents. WFP also delivered the kits to the camps for its first distribution of hygiene kits to cover camp residents' household hygiene needs for three months (April-June). The distribution to camp residents will happen in the first week of May. A second distribution is planned for early June.
- Online vocational training for the Kitchen of Hope project continued to air on a dedicated YouTube channel, following the established curriculum. The classes are taught by well-known Turkish chefs, with Arabic translation provided live. A total of 177 participants received their monthly entitlement of TRY 750 (USD 115) and 50 TL (USD 7.6) top-up for internet data credit. The procurement of a second batch of kitchen equipment for vocational high schools is in progress. The vocational training of the first cohort was completed at the end of April; WFP is now working on arrangements to ensure the graduates can continue with the on-the-job training component, including at municipal soup kitchens set up in view of COVID-19.

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2020-2021)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
225 m	167 m
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (June – Nov. 2020)
189 m	11.6 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

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

- In April, WFP released a special report entitled ‘COVID-19 Pandemic in Turkey – Analysis of Vulnerabilities and Potential Impact Among Refugees’. Drawing on data collected for the fifth Comprehensive Vulnerability Monitoring Exercise (covering the period December 2019-February 2020), the report covers both ESSN applicants (eligible and ineligible) and refugees who have not applied for ESSN assistance.
- The report analyses the extent of vulnerability among refugees based on three themes: i) vulnerability to COVID-19 based on known risk factors for infection; ii) access to information on COVID-19; and iii) the potential for worse poverty and food insecurity outcomes among refugees.
- Key results show that nearly one-quarter (23 percent) of refugee households are at risk to COVID-19 infection. The most common risk factor among refugees (45 per cent) is crowding in households. About one-third (32 percent) of refugee households are home to at least one member who is considered as high-risk such as elderly members or those with a chronic illness.
- While 98 percent of refugees own either a smart phone, TV, or a computer, 23 percent have no access to internet or a satellite dish, suggesting that communication through mainstream media may not necessarily reach all refugees.
- The report shows that 45 percent of refugees were living below the World Bank’s moderate poverty line (TRY 418 or USD 64 per month) and 61 percent below the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) threshold of TRY 480 (USD 73) just before the COVID-19 outbreak. A combined analysis among non-ESSN beneficiaries shows that, before the onset of COVID-19, 11

percent of households had per capita expenditure below MEB and had no reliable source of income, suggesting that they are particularly vulnerable. This was especially higher among Afghan refugees and refugees who were removed from the ESSN due to administrative issues.

- Despite the expectation that measures implemented to control the spread of the pandemic would lead to price hikes and scarcity of commodities, data available as of 20 April shows a relatively stable macro-economic environment in Turkey with a yearly inflation rate of 12 percent reported at the end of March.
- Increases in economic vulnerability among refugees are expected to be driven by the loss of employment, with daily wage earners in the informal sector being the worst affected. The stay-at-home measures have had particularly significant repercussions on refugees working in the construction and manufacture sectors. Read the full report [here](#).

Story Worth Telling

WFP’s Kitchen of Hope project has gone online so hundreds of young Turkish and Syrian participants can stay on track with their vocational training. As measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 came into force, making face-to-face training in the classroom impossible, WFP continued its culinary training programme online. As a result, chefs are now delivering interactive lessons via a dedicated [You Tube channel](#). Reactions from participants have been positive.

Nariman, from Aleppo, Syria, who now lives in Istanbul, is thrilled: “It’s good to have a live broadcast of cooking lessons when stuck at home with nothing to do,” she says. Yaren Carpar, the chef who conducted the first interactive online lesson on the use of legumes, found it promising — albeit a surreal experience. Read about it [here](#).



Donors

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

1st Photo Caption: Beneficiaries comply with physical distancing in the contracted markets in Kahramanmaras camp. ©WFP/Feride Yildirim

2nd Photo Caption: Students view MUV tutor Yaren Carpar and cooking. ©WFP/ Youtube