



World Food Programme

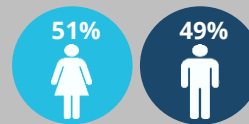
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Turkey Country Brief June 2020



In Numbers

55,873 people assisted
In June 2020



US\$ 0.02 m distributed in multi-purpose cash

US\$ 0.81 m distributed through value vouchers

15,000 hygiene kits delivered to in-camp households

US\$ 19.2 million six-month net funding requirements
(August 2020 – January 2021)

Operational Context

Turkey hosts the highest number of refugees in the world, 4 million people, of which 3.58 million are from Syria. Around 62,900 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 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) 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.



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 (TLIK)

Operational Updates

- As of 30 June, 198,613 COVID-19 cases were confirmed in Turkey, along with 5,115 deaths. Government restrictions in response to the pandemic were eased in June. WFP continues its operations, while making necessary adjustments to ensure compliance with the COVID-19 safety measures as well as mitigate any risk of transmission resulting from WFP activities.
- WFP continues to support 55,159 refugees in six camps, through a monthly e-voucher payment of TRY 100 (USD 15) per person. In June, WFP delivered the second round of 15,000 hygiene kits to cover camp residents' household hygiene needs, with the second distribution completing one full kit; each kit covers 3 months' needs. As of 30 June, no COVID-19 positive cases have been confirmed among refugees in the camps.
- On 22 - 26 June, 158 students (85 Syrians and 73 Turkish, of whom 82 were women and 76 men) received intensive practical cooking classes under the cash-for-training component of the Mutfakta Umut Var (MUV)/Kitchen of Hope project. Each one received an entitlement of TRY 375 (USD 58) for completion of the course. They were then registered in Turkey's national Employment Agency's (ISKUR) database for the on-the-job training component, which will take place in restaurants and soup kitchens. In June, 29 teachers across seven provinces received a total of TRY 220,800 (USD 31,692) for the 160 hours they worked in support of MUV's first cohort.
- WFP conducted in-person interviews for MUV's second cohort, selecting 35 participants in each of seven provinces. The cohort will begin training on 6 July with two training days (20 hours) per week. These lessons will take place in person, with social distancing measures and masks worn to minimize COVID-19 infection risk.
- WFP, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and local municipalities have reached an agreement on implementation of the soup kitchen programme. The three parties have signed letters of intent to begin cooking and distributing hot meals in eight provinces, aiming to provide 15,000 meals per day for extremely vulnerable Turkish and refugee households from July to September.

Photo Caption: WFP distribution of hygiene kits in Yayladagi camp in Hatay, southeaster Turkey. ©WFP/ Mehmet Cemtas

**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) (August 2020– January 2021)
189 m	19.2 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
- Provide common services to partners, including UN agencies.

Monitoring

- WFP conducted Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) for its May-June distribution of a total of 15,000 household coronavirus hygiene kits in six camps. Preliminary data collected in June showed that 89 percent of refugees expressed satisfaction with the quality of the kits. PDM results showed no change in the availability of hygiene items and food in the markets. However, refugees' average hygiene expenditure dropped from TRY 185 (USD 28) to TRY 175 (USD 26) following the distribution of the kits. Beneficiaries followed news of the distribution on television and social media. Monitoring data indicated a significant improvement in the way camp households addressed the threat of COVID-19 between the first and second WFP distributions of coronavirus hygiene kits in May and June respectively:
 - The percentage of people practising high-level prevention measures increased significantly, from four to 28 percent.
 - The percentage of people resorting to negative coping behavior (such as eating or smoking more than usual) decreased from 48 to 41 percent.
 - The percentage of people reporting that the markets were more crowded than before the outbreak fell from 72 to 52 percent.
 - The percentage of people feeling stress/anxiety dropped from 49 to 30 percent.
 - The percentage of people with a low level of knowledge of virus symptoms decreased from 70 to 57 percent.

- The percentage of people with a low level of knowledge of prevention measures fell from 33 to 16 percent.
- Results from WFP's survey on the quality of Kitchen of Hope's online training classes illustrated that the participants were fully engaged. 91 percent of females and 71 percent of the males stated that they learned new skills and tips in each class.
- 30 teachers conducted individual performance evaluation assessments amongst 177 Kitchen of Hope participants covering various topics. Participants scored highest in inter-group relationship and communication skills followed by hygiene and safety and then professional skills.
- WFP field teams contacted Kitchen of Hope participants to understand their willingness to continue to the on-the-job training, starting 1 July. The majority confirmed that they would take part. Those who prefer a later start date, citing COVID-19 concerns, will be able to join the second cohort's on-the-job training in October, once the the second group has completed their vocational training.
- WFP conducted a survey with the first cohort prior to launching the second cohort application process to identify learning that could be incorporated into the second round. 88 percent of participants found the application link and process to be easy. Six percent said someone else had helped them apply. 94 percent found WFP's communication with them excellent, very good or good, while six percent regarded it as 'satisfactory'.
- WFP is creating a website for the Kitchen of Hope project, accessible to all participants, enabling graduates to stay in touch and exchange messages via the Alumni Club feature. The website will streamline communications, as well as allow chefs to share open vacancies in the hospitality sector. The website will also include an anonymous Complaints and Feedback Mechanism to ensure accountability to all beneficiaries and a safe space to raise issues.

Story Worth Telling

- [Read](#) how the Kitchen of Hope project is bringing Hadeel one step closer to her dream.

**Donors**

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

Photo Caption: MUV participant Hadeel celebrating the completion of the vocational training. ©WFP/MelissaLoukieh