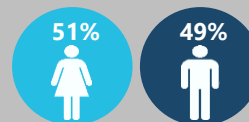




## WFP Turkey Country Brief July 2020

## In Numbers

**56,565 people assisted**  
In July 2020



**US\$ 0.79 m** distributed through value vouchers

**US\$ 0.06 m** distributed through cash for training

**US\$ 14.1 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 3.6 million are from Syria. Around 62,100 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.



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)

## Operational Updates

- As of 31 July, 230,873 COVID-19 cases were confirmed in Turkey, along with 5,691 deaths and 212,557 recoveries. By the end of the month the majority of COVID-19 restrictions in response to the pandemic had been eased across Turkey's 81 provinces, though discrete quarantines continue to be implemented as pockets of cases are detected and masks remain mandatory in 50 locations. Schools are slated to reopen on 31 August throughout Turkey. WFP continues its operations, while making necessary adjustments to ensure compliance with COVID-19 safety measures as well as to mitigate any risk of transmission resulting from WFP activities.
- WFP continues to support refugees in six camps, through a monthly e-voucher payment of TRY 100 (USD 15) per person, reaching 54,792 in the July transfer. As of 31 July, no COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in the camps.
- Starting 6 July, 103 students began their on-the-job training at an assigned restaurant, cafe or soup kitchen across seven provinces under the cash-for-training component of the *Mutfakta Umut Var* (MUV)/Kitchen of Hope project. Each student received a cash transfer entitlement of up to TRY 2,324 (USD 341), based on the number of their working days. Participants and employers signed contracts in relevant Employment Agency-İŞKUR branches, with WFP supporting administrative paperwork. Participants received a mandatory hygiene training online. There were seven drop-outs from the MUV cohort-1, one after finding regular job and others mostly for health and domestic reasons.
- The second cohort of 206 participants (104 Syrians and 102 Turkish) began their vocational training in July with two training days (20 hours) per week. These lessons take place in person, with social distancing measures and masks worn at all times to minimize COVID-19 infection risk. After completing the first month of the training (with at least 80 percent attendance) participants will receive a monthly cash transfer of TRY 750 (USD 110).
- In July, a three-month soup kitchen project sponsored by WFP, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and IOM kicked off in six provinces in partnership with local municipalities. The six kitchens provide 9,500 hot meals per day for vulnerable refugees and Turkish nationals.

## Interim Country Strategic Plan (2020-2021)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>225 m</b>	<b>167 m</b>
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (August 2020 – January 2021)
<b>189 m</b>	<b>14.1 m</b>

**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

- The fifth **Comprehensive Vulnerability Monitoring Exercise** (CVME5) covering the period from November 2019 to February 2020 was released in July. CVME5 covered both Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) applicants (eligible and ineligible) and non-applicants. As the data was collected in the months preceding the pandemic, it provides an insight on the potentially vulnerable populations affected by COVID-19.
- Among the findings, the data showed that the refugee population is young and dynamic, with persons under the age of 18 constituting 46 percent of the population. Nearly one-in-five households are female-headed. More than half of refugee households had at least one sick member, most often due to respiratory tract infections. Refugees are for the most part treated in government-owned health facilities.
- Three-quarters of refugee households live in poor-quality apartments. Conditions have deteriorated among both ESSN beneficiaries and ineligible households since Q4 2018. The minimum cost of essential needs has increased at a higher rate since the 2018 economic slowdown and currently outstrips income for most refugees, who depend either on the ESSN or low paid, unskilled labour as their main source of income.
- While most households are food-secure, with high food consumption and dietary diversity, iron rich foods are absent from the diet of one-third of refugees, predisposing women and children to micronutrient deficiency.
- CVME5 data also indicated a 10 percent increase (since Q4 2018) in the percentage of households with at least one family member planning to leave Turkey. More than two-thirds of those planning to leave are currently living below the poverty line.
- An estimated 400,000 refugee children do not regularly attend school. Children in female-headed households are more likely to

miss school. Read the full report [here](#).

- The analysis of the final **ESSN Post Distribution Monitoring** (PDM) panel survey covering the period December 2019 - February 2020 was completed in July. The overall results of the survey indicate that beneficiary households continue to have better results than non-beneficiaries. Most of the outcome indicators for beneficiaries have shown progress in March 2020 as compared to the baseline (May 2017). Results show a relatively consistent trend since previous PDMs. Analysis shows that the Livelihood Coping Strategies Index (LCSI) has improved over time. Similar trends have been observed for food consumption; the percentage of households with acceptable food consumption increased from 77 percent at baseline, peaked at 89 percent in January 2018, then reversed due to the economic slowdown before recovering, reaching 84 percent in the final PDM. The analysis does not yet reflect any consequences caused by Covid-19 and it is likely indicators have worsened consistently for ESSN beneficiaries, but probably even more for non-beneficiaries.
- At the time of ESSN II handover on 31 March 2020, 8,621 Protection cases had been identified and referred to relevant entities, including Turkish authorities and local NGOs. The most common cases - 37 percent - were in need of health-related support. ID registration problems accounted for another 15 percent and child protection cases eight percent. Further eight percent of cases in need of in-kind and other cash assistance included vulnerable persons not eligible for ESSN assistance.
- The **mid-term independent evaluation of the ESSN** in Turkey, covering the period from May 2018 to November 2019, has been finalized. A key finding is that the ESSN should continue to liaise with the Ministry of Family, Labour, and Social Services to find the most appropriate and effective ways to support the Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation offices in making household visits to correct inclusion and exclusion errors. Read the full report [here](#).
- **Post-distribution monitoring data collected in camps** on WFP/Kizilay's e-voucher programme between January and March 2020 shows that 98 percent of beneficiaries had acceptable food consumption levels. This indicates that the assistance given helped refugees meet their basic food needs. However, there was an increase in the use of coping strategies in Q1 of 2020 when compared to the previous quarter. The spread of the virus caused a high level of anxiety among camp residents, and many experienced a loss of employment and shortage of income. The average camp resident spent considerably more than the WFP assistance of USD 15 per person. COVID-19 movement restrictions have had particularly significant repercussions on camp residents who rely on casual/ seasonal labor for supplementary income.
- Data shows that 14 percent of the households in-camps had at least one female member who was either pregnant or lactating, while about two-in-five (19 percent) of households had a disabled/chronically ill member with or without a medical report.

## Donors

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