

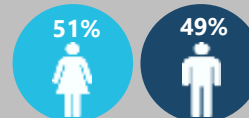


SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Turkey Country Brief September 2020



In Numbers



54,599 people assisted
In September 2020

US\$ 0.73 m distributed through value vouchers

US\$ 0.06 m distributed through cash for training

15,000 hygiene kits delivered to in-camp households

US\$31 million six-month net funding requirements
(October 2020 – March 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 60,690 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 30 September, 320,070 COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in Turkey. Of this number, 8,262 people perished and 281,151 recovered. Government responses to the pandemic have varied across Turkey's 81 provinces. Due to the significant daily increase in positive cases, in September the Government of Turkey issued new COVID-19 regulations, including fines and imprisonment for violators. WFP will continue its operations, while making necessary adjustments to ensure compliance with COVID-19 safety measures and mitigate the risk of transmission.
- WFP continues to support refugees in six camps, through a monthly e-voucher payment of TRY 100 (USD 14) per person. These payments reached 53,321 people in September. WFP has delivered 109,824 pieces of personal protective equipment (PPE) to health workers attending to the needs of in-camp residents. WFP has also distributed the first instalment of the second round of 15,000 hygiene kits to cover in-camp households' hygiene needs for three months.
- Under the cash-for-training component of the Mutfakta Umut Var (MUV)/Kitchen of Hope project, the first cohort of 115 participants completed its on-the-job training in September and 47 graduates received job offers from the restaurants or soup kitchens where they had been placed. Each participant received a cash transfer entitlement of up to TRY 2,324 (USD 317) per month. The second cohort of 182 participants is receiving vocational training in culinary skills, with a monthly stipend of TRY 750 (USD 102) being provided as an incentive to remain in the programme.
- In September, the soup kitchen project – a MUV project adaptation as part of COVID-19 mitigation measures under the sponsorship of WFP, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and IOM – prepared and provided 11,500 hot meals per day for vulnerable refugees and Turkish nationals in seven provinces. On 1 September, the WFP's Country Director visited a soup kitchen in Sanliurfa, accompanied by the Deputy Mayor of the municipality. On 9 September, WFP and partners took part in the opening of a soup kitchen in Şişli, Istanbul followed by the signature of a letter of goodwill between the municipality of Şişli, GIZ and WFP.

**Interim Country Strategic Plan
(2020-2021)**

Total Requirements (in USD)		Allocated Contributions (in USD)
225 m		174 m
2020 Requirements (USD)	2021 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (October 2020 – March 2021)
189 m	36 m	31 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

- Soup Kitchen project baseline surveys were conducted in seven provinces in August. Key findings showed that 66 percent of soup kitchen beneficiary households have an acceptable food consumption score (FCS), 18 percent are at borderline level, and 16 percent on a poor diet. The acceptable FCS for households headed by women scored 92 percent while for male-headed households the figure was 82 percent. Findings indicate that 82 percent of the participants had no need to resort to consumption coping strategies. However, 77 percent had to use livelihood coping strategies, including sending children to work.
- The in-camp Price Market Monitoring and On-Site Monitoring report for the second quarter (Q2) of 2020 was finalized in September. Data showed that:
 - The average monthly food basket in the contracted markets costs TRY 160, 60 percent more than the assistance provided.
 - The purchase of hygiene items increased among refugees; masks became an essential item of their expenditure.
 - Camp markets were the only source for shopping. They had difficulties in providing supplies in April, 2020, but were able to operate as usual in May and July.
 - Prices of bean, cheese and tea showed a particularly increasing trend in contracted markets during the monitoring activities.
 - The increase in food basket cost in Kahramanmaraş camp from March 2020 was outstanding and reported as the highest during Q2 2020 compared to other camps.

- Refugees greatly appreciated the additional one-off payment provided in April, as employment opportunities had contracted because of the pandemic.
- A special satellite TV connection has been set up in Kahramanmaraş camp to facilitate access to distance learning courses organised by the Ministry of Education. However, students have been unable to submit their assignments online because they cannot afford the cost of an internet package.

- WFP continues to monitor the state of the market nationwide. Market monitoring analysis of Q2 2020 was released in September. Key findings show the following:
 - The Turkish economy contracted in Q2 2020 as a result of shutdowns during the pandemic.
 - The Turkish Statistical Institute (Turkstat) statistics showed the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) costs TRY 505 per Turkish person in a six-person household. Officially, the MEB increased by less than one percent monthly through Q2, 2020. This low increase has been stable since December 2019.
 - Unemployment rates increased in June 2020 to 13.4 percent compared to 12.9 percent in May. The ban on dismissing employees strengthened social security. Some employees, however, were not dismissed but retained on partial payment of salaries or unpaid leave.
- On 23 September, the Turkish lira observed a new low against the dollar, triggered by foreign and domestic investor scepticism about the state of the economy.

WFP Turkey in the News

- Read: WFP Country Director, Nils Grede in an interview on WFP's achievement during COVID-19 and impact of covid on refugees – interview ([Turkish](#), [English](#)).

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