



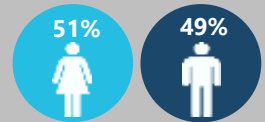
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Turkey Country Brief October 2020

In Numbers



53,167 people assisted
In October 2020

US\$ 0.73 m distributed through value vouchers

US\$ 0.03 m distributed through cash for training

US\$34.9 million six-month net funding requirements
(November 2020 – April 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 60,000 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 (TUİK)

Operational Updates

- On October 30 a 6.6 magnitude earthquake struck Izmir. To date, 17 buildings have collapsed; 962 people have been injured and over 100 people have lost their lives. In the immediate aftermath, WFP conducted a rapid needs assessment to better understand the needs of local authorities. WFP reached out to partners such as IOM in order to enable the Izmir Metropolitan Municipality to distribute hot meals through Soup Kitchens in the most affected districts.
- As of 31 October, 377,473 COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in Turkey, along with 10,326 deaths and 320,762. Government responses to the pandemic have varied across Turkey's 81 provinces due to the significant daily increase in positive cases. Some schools have resumed classes with a mix of in-class and distance learning/online courses. 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 , 52,638 people in October.
- Under the cash-for-training component of the Mutfakta Umut Var (MUV)/Kitchen of Hope project, 95 participants from the first cohort completed on-the-job (OJT) training. Of those, 23 participants started formal employment at the restaurants or soup kitchens upon training completion. Among the second cohort, 181 participants completed the vocational training, of those, 137 (65 Syrian, 72 Turkish) started their OJT. WFP held feedback sessions with participants to foster motivation. MUV third cohort received over 4,748 applications, training will begin in November with 30-35 participants per location in 9 provinces.
- In October WFP, together with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and IOM, continued to provide soup kitchen hot meals every day for vulnerable refugees and Turkish nationals in seven provinces.

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) (November 2020 – April 2021)
189 m	36 m	34.9 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.
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- On 31 October, the innovative EMPACT (Empowerment in Action) resilience programme to increase the self-reliance of youth (18-35 years old) kicked off in Istanbul with 100 participants (50 Turkish, 50 Syrians). The pilot is implemented jointly by WFP, Microsoft, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Foundation and a local cooperating partner 'Kodluyoruz' under the guidance of WFP Innovation Accelerator. The initiative emulates similar work WFP has done previously in other countries by providing digital, soft skills training and employability support.

Monitoring

- Participants in the MUV first and second cohorts have taken part in a survey carried out by WFP across nine provinces. The aim is to inquire into the reasons for some participants dropping out of the course. Once the data will be processed WFP will put additional measures in place to ensure as far as possible that we meet our targets – acknowledging that some reasons for drop-out such as disease or finding a permanent job cannot be changed. These measures would include the creation of early response mechanisms to deal with problems when they arise, financial incentives as well as a further improved selection process.

Preliminary findings show that most participants who dropped out tended to be somewhat better off than those who completed the programme, including coming from a less vulnerable family background (as defined by a smaller average household size, fewer members of the family with special needs, and skills and experience in the culinary sector that generate more employment and income possibilities).

Data shows that the most common reason given for leaving the MUV programme is an opportunity for employment. The general satisfaction level remains high for remaining participants. The data shows that individual self-motivation is clearly an important element amongst those determined to finish the programme. The endline survey for MUV's first cohort participants has been conducted and will help WFP assess the impact of the project on their lives.

- WFP continues to monitor the economic situation closely. On 30 October, 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

- On 4-5 October, the Ambassador of Ireland, Sonya McGuinness, WFP Turkey Country Director Nils Grede, GIZ Country Director Rubeena Esmail and IOM Senior Programme Coordinator Torsten Haschenz visited Haliliye municipality's soup kitchen and attended WFP's [press conference](#) on MUV in Sanliurfa.
- On 8 October, WFP held a media event at the Ataturk Technical and Vocational Anatolian High School in Ankara to mark the graduation ceremony for MUV cohort-2 participants. WFP briefed attendees on the project through this video (in [English](#) and [Turkish](#)). The occasion was well-attended by Directors from the Ministry of National Education and the Employment Agency-İŞKUR, MP Ceyda Çankırı and by donor representatives from the embassies of Norway and the Republic of Korea. The media representatives were taken on a visit to the kitchen where trainees had prepared a mouth-watering lunch pack for all their visitors. All attendees expressed their pleasure at being part of such a rewarding project. The event received significant media attention. The major Turkish news agency, Anadolu Agency, interviewed the Country Director, Nils Grede (read [here](#)).



Donors

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