



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Turkey Country Brief November 2020

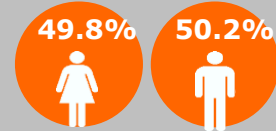
In Numbers

55,290 people assisted in November 2020

US\$1.3 million (approx.) distributed through value vouchers

US\$36.2 million six-month net funding requirements (December 2020 – May 2021)

WFP SAYS NO to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE



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.

Operational Updates

- As of 30 November, 500,865 COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in Turkey, 13,746 deaths and 404,727 recoveries. The sharp rise in daily positive cases recently recorded prompted the Government to reintroduce strict measures to slow down the spread of the virus. As of 1 December, a nationwide curfew will be in effect from 9 p.m to 5 a.m on weekdays, and from Friday 9 p.m until Monday 5 a.m on weekends. Schools will remain closed for the remainder of the semester and restaurants will only be able to provide delivery services. WFP continues to move forward with its operations making the 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 52,932 people in November. Each household also received an additional top-up of TRY 500 (USD 60) as agreed by Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM) in September. In anticipation of the top-up disbursement, WFP field staff informed camp authorities and BIM markets in all camps in a timely manner to enable them to prepare their stocks and meet in-camp residents' demands. The top-up was well received by the refugee community and no overcrowding was observed in markets.
- Following COVID-19 restrictions imposed by the Government of Turkey and due to an increase of cases in Osmaniye District, the Provincial Health Directorate authorised a complete District lockdown which directly affected the camp located in the area. WFP and DGMM initiated negotiations for the activation of a contingency plan for the distributions of food baskets led by WFP in cooperation with BIM market.
- Under the cash-for-training component of the Mutfakta Umut Var (MUV)/Kitchen of Hope project, 129 participants from the Cohort 2 (64 Syrians and 65 Turkish) are currently undergoing on-the-job training (OJT). A female Turkish MUV graduate in Istanbul has started working as a Chef and 12 other participants in both Istanbul and Izmir have found jobs in the gastronomy sector. Similarly, 2 participants in Ankara were hired at their OJT locations. At the same time, 284 participants from Cohort 3 will start vocational training in nine provinces once the technical training is completed.



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)**

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Procurement in the Business Operations Strategy (BOS) Planning Framework. The WG is to discuss and consolidate Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) along with the associated risks.

Monitoring

- Due to the COVID-19 situation, WFP collected information from the OJT locations in a bid to learn if the trainees would still be working in the restaurants with the new “delivery only” working modality. Participants who couldn’t continue the OTJ training because restaurants have closed due to COVID restrictions, are being followed up closely in cooperation with ISKUR to ensure they have additional OTJ opportunities.

Challenges

- The new restrictions introduced by the government as a response to the steep increase in positive cases led the Ministry of National Education to suspend the Kitchen of Hope in-class training in favour of the online modality. To this end, WFP is collaborating with partner *Gastronometro* for online classes production as well as enlisting well-known chefs to provide daily online classes.
- The restrictions on the mobility of people aged 20 and below prompted WFP, in collaboration with ISKUR, to provide participants with official documents that allowed them to go out within restricted hours. To ensure Kitchen of Hope participants are not demotivated due to the implications of the COVID-19 measures on the gastronomy sector, WFP prepared a detailed message for Cohort 2 participants to emphasize how important is to keep supporting the gastronomy sector which has been affected by the pandemic and is currently facing a crisis.
- Keeping social distance while shopping in camps is challenging especially during the 3-4 days that follow the cash transfers, hence only a limited number of people can shop in every round based on the size of the market.

Success Stories From the Field

- Zehra’s interest in cooking since a young age is what directed her to MUV project. Today, Zehra is working at the OJT location and providing for her daughter’s education. She is thankful to WFP that helped her become independent.



Photo: WFP/Faranak Sharifi

Donors

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

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2020-2021)	
Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
225 m	179 m
2021 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (December 2020 – May 2021)
36 m	36.2 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.

- In November, WFP, together with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), continued to support soup kitchens in seven provinces to provide vulnerable refugees and Turkish nationals with daily hot meals. Recently, a letter of intent has been signed with the Sultangazi Municipality in Istanbul to support its soup kitchen for 2 months, starting from December 2020.
- As a result of the devastating earthquake that hit Izmir in October, WFP provided Izmir Metropolitan Municipality with instant coffee, water, gloves, paper cups and cutlery, wet wipes for 20,000 people and 20,000 garbage bags.
- As of 30 November, the innovative EMPACT (Empowerment in Action) resilience programme to increase the self-reliance of youth (18-35 years old) that kicked off in Istanbul reached 91 participants.
- 20 EMPACT Syrian refugee participants have been accepted to start remote paid internships in 7 Sweden-based companies. Interns will receive USD 500 per month. Within Turkey, 5 Turkish companies agreed on employing the refugee graduates. In addition, Kodluyoruz will provide 50 hours of English classes at the end of each bootcamp.
- As part of the 16 days of activism, WFP bought orange face masks with a printed key message to end violence. Masks were distributed to MUV participants, trainers and TRCO staff.
- Procurement Working Group (WG) took the initiative to include a Promoting Gender and Environmental Responsive