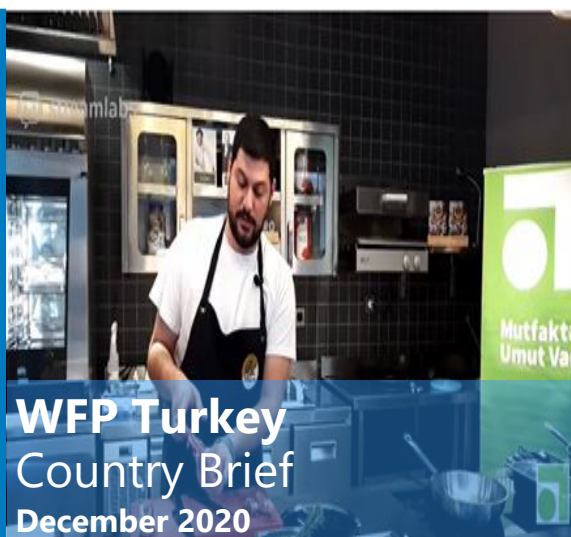




World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Turkey Country Brief December 2020

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.



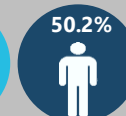
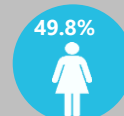
Population of Turkey:
83.2 million

2019 Human Development Index:
54 out of 189

Income Level: **Upper middle**

2019 Gross National Income per capita
(PPP): **USD 27.7**

In Numbers



54,433 people assisted
In December 2020

US\$ 1.27 m distributed through value vouchers

US\$ 0.06 m distributed through cash for training

US\$38.7 million six-month net funding requirements
(January – June 2021)

Operational Updates

- As of 31 December, 2,208,652 COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in Turkey, 20,881 deaths and 2,100,650 recoveries. The measures that the Government had rolled out last November to contain the rise in the positive cases which include nationwide lockdowns on weekends and the closure of restaurants and schools, are still in place. Turkey received the first batch of China's Sinovac Biotech vaccine on 31 December and is set to launch the inoculation if the vaccine passes at least 14-day-long tests to get the "Emergency Use Approval". Meanwhile, WFP will move forward with its operations, 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 12) per person. These payments reached 52,552 people in December. This transfer's value will be increased to 120 TRY (USD 14.4) as of January. Furthermore, in-camp residents received two top-ups of TRY 500 (USD 60) each per household in November and December. The Top-up Satisfaction Survey started on 28 December 2020 in six camps and will go on until 15 January 2021.
- Following the lockdown that was imposed in the Province of Osmaniye in November, WFP and the Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM) launched negotiations regarding the activation of a contingency plan to distribute food baskets to the affected households living in the camp located in that area. WFP informed DGMM of its readiness to distribute food parcels in any camp. The plan has been put on hold as negotiations haven't reached an endpoint as of December 2020.
- Under the cash-for-training component of the Mutfakta Umut Var (MUV)/Kitchen of Hope project, 127 participants from the second cohort are still undergoing on-the-job training (OJT) that was extended for one extra month to minimize the COVID-19 impact on participants and on-the-job locations. 276 participants in nine provinces are attending vocational training online. Participants received a TRY 50 (USD 6) top-up to cover the internet cost and ensure they all access the training. The closure of the restaurants as part of the COVID-19 precautionary measures brought the OJT training of 41 participants to a standstill, prompting WFP to launch negotiations with the Turkish Employment Agency (ISKUR) to place them in different locations. Also, the Ministry of National Education decided to resume the face-to-face training for cohort three as of 11 January.

Photo Caption: The Kitchen of Hope online training broadcast through a dedicated YouTube channel. ©WFP

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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/turkey

Interim Country Strategic Plan
(2020-2021)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
225 m	184 m
2021 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (January – June 2021)
36 m	38.7 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 December WFP, together with its partners, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and International Organization for Migration (IOM), continued to provide soup kitchen hot meals five days a week for both vulnerable refugees and Turkish nationals in seven provinces. The support provided for Sisli Municipality in Istanbul has been extended until May 2021 and that of Adana Metropolitan Municipality was resumed as of mid-January 2021. In addition, WFP referred 11 Kitchen of Hope participants to Soup Kitchens in Adana, Istanbul and Kilis for employment opportunities.
 - The innovative EMPACT (Empowerment in Action) resilience programme that kicked off on 31 October in Istanbul to increase the self-reliance of youth (18-35 years old) is ongoing. 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. By end of December, the project reached 113 participants, out of which 44 are Syrians and 69 are Turkish. 11 new Turkish companies expressed their willingness to employ the bootcamp graduates and one participant already got a job offer and will start formal employment as of 4 January.
 - WFP is still looking for ways to extend the scope of its assistance and reach more sectors. The NetworkFresh team attended a two-week bootcamp with WFP Innovation Accelerator. The project pitch event was held on 15 December with the presence of UN agencies, donors, embassies and private sector companies. On 18 December, WFP submitted the NetworkFresh project proposal to WFP Innovation Accelerator.

Monitoring

- In December, WFP conducted a survey to assess the third cohort participants' feedbacks on the online training. A total of 205 beneficiaries from nine provinces (Adana, Ankara, Hatay, Istanbul, Izmir, Kilis, Mardin, Mersin, Sanliurfa) participated in the third round of this survey, half of those are Turkish, and the other half are Syrians (49 per cent male and 51 per cent female). The key findings revealed that 94 per cent of the participants always or often attended online classes, with a higher attendance recorded among females and Turkish nationals. While the satisfaction with chefs' performance increased from 80 to 86 points (out of 100), 88 per cent of the participants stated that they learned new skills and tips in each class. Results also showed that Syrians preferred to follow the training both online and through the records and Turkish participants mostly joined online.
- The Market Price Monitoring (MPM) and On-Site Monitoring (OSM) Report for the third quarter of 2020 indicated that the average food basket in the contracted markets at the camps costs TRY 161, increasing 27 per cent in comparison with September 2019. The monitoring activities showed that the camp management continued to implement precautionary measures against COVID-19 and the residents are mostly complying with them, although more sensitization is needed for social distancing in the markets.

Success Stories from MUV participants

The Kitchen of Hope project continues to yield results. Batoul, a young Syrian participant from the first cohort, got the chance to assist her trainer chef during an online session delivered at *Gastronometro*. Batoul is one of the 30 participants from the same cohort who have been officially employed and is now sharing what she learned during the MUV vocational and on-the-job trainings with the new participants. Batoul also wore an orange mask prepared by WFP Team to raise awareness on gender-based violence (GBV) as part of the 16 days of activism.

- With WFP's advocacy, a Syrian participant from the first cohort received kitchen equipment from IOM for the restaurant he opened in the province of Izmir.



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