



SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Turkey Country Brief April 2021



In Numbers



51,241 people assisted in April 2021

USD 0.74 m distributed through value vouchers

USD 0.01 m distributed through cash for training

USD 10.7 m six-month net funding requirements (June - November 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:
54 out of 189

Income Level: **Upper middle**

Poverty Rate: **28.7 percent** living below the national poverty line (TUİK)

Operational Updates

- Under its e-food card programme, WFP supported a total of 51,026 refugees in six camps across southeastern Turkey, through a monthly e-voucher payment of TRY 120 (USD 14.6) per person.
- 245 participants from the Mutfakta Umut Var (MUV)/Kitchen of Hope project (third cohort) successfully completed the vocational training in March and were eligible to move forward with the on-the-job training (OJT). To minimize possible dropouts and avoid interruptions, WFP is in touch with the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR) to provide participants with lockdown exemption letters. On the other side, participants who have been matched with restaurants that temporarily shut down due to the containment measures, will start OJT in June. WFP will also add new sectors to its livelihoods projects, such as food packaging and housekeeping, as of June 2021.
- WFP continues to support Sultangazi Municipality's soup kitchen (Istanbul) to help cook and deliver hot meals to both Syrian refugees and vulnerable Turkish citizens. This support, which will keep running until mid-2021, is part of the trilateral collaboration between WFP, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) that started in July 2020 and came to a close in January 2021 for all soup kitchens with the exception of the Istanbul one.
- A total of 1,620,639 meals were delivered to 11,549 individuals throughout the duration of the Soup Kitchen project.
- EMPACT (Empowerment in Action) resilience programme technical classes concluded in January with a total of 112 participants (44 Syrians, 68 Turkish). The full lockdown measures brought about the suspension of the OJT of 14 participants out of 38 participants doing OJT. Thanks to WFP's advocacy and the Turkish Employment Agency's support, participants will resume OJT at the end of May. Furthermore, 36 participants already started formal employment.
- WFP is finalizing the preparations for the second EMPACT pilot, which is going to be implemented in the provinces of Şanlıurfa and Adıyaman with a total of 100 participants. This project is implemented jointly by WFP, Microsoft, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Foundation, and a local cooperating partner, 'Kodluyoruz', under the guidance of WFP Innovation Accelerator.
- Two Turkish academics selected by WFP started a research on successful models that support refugee economic integration through skills and vocation training based on MUV and other livelihoods activities. The study, expected to be finalized by the end of August, aims to come up with a model that can be replicated in other countries.

Contact info: turkey.info@wfp.org

Country Director: Nils Grede

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

Photo Caption: A Syrian refugee in Hatay with her grandchildren. Photo: WFP/Mehmet Cemtaş

Interim Country Strategic Plan
(2020-2021)

Total Requirements (USD)	Allocated Contributions (USD)
225 m	191 m
2021 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (USD) (June – November 2021)
36 m	10.7 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.
- As part of the preparations to start the implementation of the Network Fresh (*Aş Ortaçım*) pilot in Istanbul in May, WFP's partner, Sodexo, prepared a food safety report about the project and presented the findings to WFP and Şişli Municipality (Istanbul). The French food services and facilities management company will provide hygiene, work safety and COVID-19 training to the municipality soup kitchen staff in May. In addition, a Field Level Agreement will be signed with Şişli Municipality during the first week of May. Designed as a COVID-19 adaptation of a larger WFP livelihood project, this model seeks to generate a multi-impact outcome to reduce food waste, increase access to high-quality nutritious food for vulnerable households and improve living conditions of vulnerable populations in cooperation with municipalities and a start-up called *Dahataze*.
 - WFP designed a training curriculum for its Urban Agriculture project and shared it with a gross market, Metro, and Büyükçekmece Municipality (Istanbul) for their feedback. Along with the okra planting training to be provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, WFP is set to organize a training with voluntary professionals from the food and agriculture sectors for the exchange of new agricultural insights. Under this project, expected to start in May, a special type of okra will be planted in 25,000 square meters of land provided by Büyükçekmece Municipality. To reach this aim, 20 participants (10 Syrians, 10 Turkish) will receive theoretical and practical training on urban agriculture.

ESSN Meta-Analysis

- The final report of the meta-analysis on the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) 2020 has been completed and is at the design stage. WFP has been working on this exercise since July 2020 in cooperation with the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and with the support of RBC. Also, based on this meta-analysis, WFP and OPHI are jointly drafting two papers, one on the impact and the targeting of the ESSN.

Challenges

- As of 30 April, 4,820,591 COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in Turkey, 40,131 deaths and 4,323,897 recoveries. The Government ordered a nationwide full lockdown between 29 April and 17 May to halt the surge in daily infections.
- As the vaccine rollout continues, Turkey granted authorization for the emergency use of Sputnik V vaccine after securing 50 million doses to arrive in the country in May. This makes the Russian-made jab the third vaccine to come into use in Turkey after Sinovac and BioNTech.
- The inoculation of camp residents started in April following district level planning. As per national guidelines, people over the age of 55 are currently eligible for receiving the vaccine in and out of camps. However, due to supply shortages, the pace of vaccinations has slowed.
- Meanwhile, WFP continues its operations, making necessary adjustments to ensure compliance with COVID-19 safety measures and avoid interruptions as much as possible.

Partnerships

- The Country Director met with the Ambassadors of Ireland, Belgium, Denmark, and Sweden as well as the European Union to exchange views and discuss future collaboration.
- On the occasion of the 6th Annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science Technology and Innovation, a female Syrian EMPACT participant called Baraah participated in a virtual side event, "Virtual side event on Gender Equality in Science, Technology and Innovation: Towards an Inclusive STI Ecosystem", on 5 May. As an IT enthusiast, Baraah shared her experience in the sector as well as her outlook on the future.

Syria conflict in the eyes of a ten-year-old refugee

- Abdelrafea is as old as the conflict in Syria. Although he was too young when he left the country with his family, the ten-year-old refugee still remembers how life used to look like there. He looks forward to visiting his home country one day and helping his fellow Syrians. Read more [here](#).

**Donors**

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

Photo caption: The 4th grader Abdelrafea studying remotely and making sure to keep up with the classes. Photo: WFP/Mehmet Cemtaş