

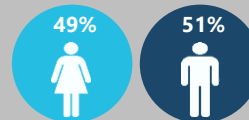


SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Turkey

Country Brief
June 2021

In Numbers



50,575 people assisted in June 2021 (estimated)

USD 703,431 distributed through value vouchers

USD 59,768 distributed through cash for training (estimated)

USD 11.3 m six-month net funding requirements (July – December 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.



Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

Population of Turkey: **83.2 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **54 out of 189**

Operational Updates

- WFP provided TRY 120 (USD 14) per person through an e-voucher to 49,545 beneficiaries (in-camp refugees), 47 percent of whom depend solely on this assistance.
- The e-voucher assistance is disbursed in contracted markets located in the camps where the in-camp supermarket prices are cheaper than nearby non-contracted markets or any other market located in the same region. That said, food basket cost, even in the contracted markets, increased from TRY 148 (USD 18) per person per month in March 2020 to TRY 189 (USD 22) in March 2021 (representing a 28 percent increase). Currently, the assistance amount covers around 63 percent of the in-camp population's nutritionally balanced food needs and falls short in the absence of additional income.
- WFP widened the scope of its livelihoods activities by adding new training opportunities, such as housekeeping, store attendant and food packaging, which will be grouped under the umbrella of the Socioeconomic Empowerment and Sustainability (SES) Programme. Applications for the store attendant, chef assistant and housekeeping have been initiated. The protocol with the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) has been signed and the trainings are expected to start in August. Meanwhile, preparations to launch the training of trainers (ToT) and the outreach activities are ongoing.
- In June, 145 participants from the Kitchen of Hope (Mutfakta Umüt Var/MUV) project continued on-the-job training (OJT) in nine provinces.
- EMPACT IT programme's employability rate is nearing 40 percent; 32 participants are currently doing OJT and 39 participants have been employed in 44 IT companies.
- Two Turkish academics selected by WFP are conducting research on successful models that support refugee economic integration through skills and vocational training based on MUV. The desk review has been completed and the field study started in June. Expected to be finalized in September, this study aims to capture lessons learnt so as to improve the programme design and put forward a model that can be replicated in other countries.

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Photo caption: Urban Agriculture project participants working in the field to grow a special type of okra in Istanbul. Photo: WFP

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2020-2021)

Total Requirements (USD)	Allocated Contributions (USD)
225 m	192 m
2021 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (USD) (July – December 2021)
36 m	11.3 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

- In June 2021, WFP published the Soup Kitchen Project beneficiary report. Findings highlighted that 38 percent of the households relied on assistance as their primary income source; 68 per cent of the households (HH) had at least one member with special needs. Female-headed HH (45 per cent) were more assistance-dependent. The project provided a safety net during a period of rapidly deteriorating socio-economic conditions. At the end line survey, in 56 percent of the HH, no family member was working in the last 30 days. Also, food consumption scores increased by 4 per cent, reaching 69 percent, yet, the level of poor food consumption increased by 4 per cent, reaching 22 percent. The percentage of children who had more than 4 meals per day increased from 3 per cent to 11 per cent, however 1 in 4 children still consumed only two meals per day. Significantly, the dietary diversity score of the male-headed households slightly increased from 5.95 to 6.16, mainly driven by more frequent consumption of meat, dairy, fruit and pulses. However, female-headed households experienced deterioration. As there was no control group, it is likely, but the data cannot prove that the condition of non-assisted households may have deteriorated a lot more. The ability to cook at home as much as desired diminished primarily due to insufficient disposable income to purchase food items, particularly among female-headed households.
- As part of the preparations to launch the Network Fresh (*Aş Ortağım*) project in July, WFP’s technical partner, Sodexo, delivered a training on hygiene, food and work safety to Şişli Municipality staff on 16 June. Designed as a COVID-19 adaptation of a larger WFP livelihood project, this project 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 *Dahataze*.
- The Urban Agriculture project’s vocational training was implemented between 31 May and 11 June with 20 female participants (10 Syrians, 10 Turkish). Under the technical training that started on 14 June, participants will grow and harvest a special type of okra in 25,000 square meters of land provided by Büyükçekmece Municipality. Implemented in collaboration with BUTKOOP (Istanbul/Büyükçekmece Municipality cooperative) and Metro (a wholesale supermarket), this project is expected to come to a close by 30 September 2021.

ESSN Meta-Analysis

- The meta-analysis on the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme implemented between 2016 and 2020 is at the final stages and will be shared with relevant parties upon its completion. 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 June, 5,425,652 COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in Turkey with 49,732 deaths and 5,294,285 recoveries. As the vaccination campaign launched in mid-January continues at full speed, the Government lifted all the containment measures as of 1 July. Meanwhile, WFP continues to implement safety measures to minimize the risk of infection among its project participants, cooperating partners and staff.

Talking Tech Interview

On 29 June, Baraah, a Syrian EMPACT participant, interviewed the Head of Research and Innovation in Dubai Electronic Security Center (DESC), Dr. Bushra Al Blooshi. Both ladies, who share the same passion for technology, talked about their experience in the IT sector as well as their plans for the future. The podcast will be made public on YouTube once ready.



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