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

- WFP provided TRY 120 (USD 14) per person through an e-voucher to 49,006 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.
- Following the postponement of applied training programme (APT) due to COVID-19 (formerly known as on-the-job-training), 26 participants of the current three cohorts are now completing it. Thus, Kitchen of Hope (MUV) programme’s 3 cohorts’ vocational and applied training programme is coming to its end. Employability rate of participants is steadily increasing, now approaching 30 percent on average as of July 2021.
- EMPACT IT programme’s employability rate has also increased, reaching 44 percent, including formal employment and business creation.
- Participant selection for WFP’s livelihoods umbrella programme, Socioeconomic Empowerment and Sustainability (SES), is still ongoing for the chef assistant, housekeeping and IT tracks. Trainings are set to start in August. Meanwhile, preparations to conduct new training of trainers (ToT) and the outreach activities for the food packaging course are ongoing. SES Training-of-Trainers (ToT) for the store attendant track was completed in Istanbul with the support of CarrefourSA and METRO Gross market.
- WFP research programme on models for refugee economic integration based on technical and applied training is ongoing. Expected to be finalized in the fourth quarter of 2021, 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.

In Numbers

- 49,983 people assisted in June 2021 (estimated)
- USD 674,859 distributed through value vouchers
- USD 72,374 distributed through cash for training (estimated)
- USD 11.3 m six-month net funding requirements (August 2021 – January 2022)

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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
Challenges
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.

Hope restored in the Kitchen
Meltem, a Kitchen of Hope (MUV) participant in Hatay, had never imagined that the project would change her life. A widow and a mother of two, Meltem worked as a waitress in many establishments in order to provide for her family. She applied for the Kitchen of Hope project in order to boost her income generating opportunities. After completing the applied training programme (ATP) at a pastry shop in Antakya, Meltem got a job offer from a 4-star hotel in Marmaris, thanks to WFP advocacy and support. Congratulations Meltem!

Talking Tech Interview
The interview of Baraah, a Syrian EMPACT participant, by the Head of Research and Innovation in Dubai Electronic Security Center (DESC), Dr. Bushra Al Blooshi has been published. You can watch the full interview in Arabic with English subtitles here.

Donors
Ireland, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, USAID/BHA, WPD AGCO Agriculture.

ESSN Meta-Analysis
The meta-analysis on the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme implemented between 2016 and 2020 is at the design stage 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, on the impact and the targeting of the ESSN. The draft Impact Paper was shared with ECHO in late July 2021. Moreover, two additional papers have been submitted to journals which try to assess the impact of the ESSN on migration aspirations.