



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Turkey

Country Brief
August 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. WFP is also set to extend its current ICSP for one year through 2022.



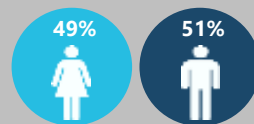
Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

Population of Turkey: **83.2 million**

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

In Numbers



49,551 people assisted in August 2021 (estimated)

USD 674,766 distributed through value vouchers

USD 65,000 distributed through vocational and on-the-job trainings (estimated)

USD 8.3 m six-month net funding requirements (September 2021 – February 2022)

Operational Updates

- Under the e-card programme implemented in collaboration with the Turkish Red Crescent (Kızılay), 47,751 beneficiaries residing in six camps in Turkey's southeast received monthly assistance of TRY 120 (USD 14) per person. Eighty percent of this amount is allocated for food and 20 percent for non-food items.
- WFP kicked off its new livelihoods umbrella programme, the Socioeconomic Empowerment and Sustainability (SES), with 363 participants who started Chef Assistant and Store Attendant vocational training in 12 provinces (Adana, Ankara, Bursa, Hatay, Istanbul, Izmir, Kahramanmaraş, Kayseri, Kocaeli, Konya, Mersin and Sanliurfa). WFP also organized three Training of Trainers (ToTs) in Gaziantep, Hatay and Ankara with the participation of 53 teachers who will deliver housekeeping, chef assistant and food packaging trainings in the coming months.
- Out of 112 graduates of the Empowerment in Action (EMPACT) programme, 48 participants were employed by the end of August. This number includes participants who found jobs in IT companies as well as those who are self-employed as they set up their own businesses. WFP plans to onboard new EMPACT participants under the SES programme in September in five provinces (Ankara, Hatay, Istanbul, Izmir and Mersin).
- The Kitchen of Hope (Mutfakta Umut Var/MUV) project is nearing its end. Out of 598 graduates from three cohorts, 184 have officially started working as chef assistants. This brings the overall employment rate to 31 percent.
- WFP research programme on models bringing together technical and applied trainings aimed at the economic integration of refugees is underway. Expected to be finalized in October 2021, this study seeks to capture lessons learnt 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 harvesting okra in the field. **Photo:** Buyukcekmece Municipality.

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2020-2021)

Total Requirements (USD)	Total Received (USD)
225 m	192 m
2021 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (USD) (September 2021 – February 2022)
36 m	8.3 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

- The Soup Kitchen assistance continued in Istanbul with the delivery of daily hot meals to both vulnerable refugees and Turkish nationals. In August, 600 households were assisted with meals provided by Sultangazi Municipality's soup kitchen.
- WFP's Network Fresh (*Aş Ortağım*) pilot project successfully completed a trial run assisting 23 beneficiaries with 710 surplus meals in August in partnership with Istanbul's Sisli Municipality. WFP has also partnered with *Fazla Gıda* app to create a mobile system to track donated meals. Thirty restaurants will join from September onwards to scale up the programme by the end of the year.
- Twenty female participants (10 Syrians, 10 Turkish) continued to harvest 60 to 80 kilograms of okra per day under the Urban Agriculture pilot project implemented in Istanbul's Buyukcekmece district. WFP's partner for the project, BUTKOOP Cooperative, started selling the harvested okra in August.

Pandemic Update

- The number of new daily cases fluctuated around 20,000 throughout August with the advent of Delta variant. With nearly 100 million doses administered, the vaccination campaign continued in August at full speed. WFP continues to implement safety measures to minimize the risk of infection among its project participants, cooperating partners and staff.

Monitoring

- WFP published the COVID-19 Response Satisfaction Report assessing the impact of the one-time unconditional cash assistance of TRY 1000 (USD 117) and hygiene kit distribution among in-camp beneficiaries. Based on a survey conducted with 284 refugees in six camps, 88 percent of the surveyed refugees were happy with the top-up assistance. However, the satisfaction decreased with the increase of the household size. Beneficiaries tend to use this assistance to prepare for the winter and to store durable food items. Furthermore, the survey highlighted that 92 percent were satisfied with the quality of the hygiene items they received.
- WFP's Q2 2021 Market Bulletin highlighted a 16 percent increase in the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) cost from TRY 505

(USD 59) in June 2020 to TRY 583 (USD 69) per person in June 2021. This is due to an increase in the food inflation rate to 20 percent and a depreciation of the Turkish Lira against the USD (from 7.64 in March to 8.61 in June). However, despite the surge in the food inflation rates, higher prices of some items in the food basket were compensated by a decrease in other items' prices, leading to a stable food basket cost since the fourth quarter of 2020.

- WFP's published Q2 2021 In-Camp Price Market Monitoring (PMM), On-Site Monitoring (OSM), and Protection Report. Findings showed that although the food basket cost has fluctuated through Q2 2021, it eventually increased from TRY 189 (USD 22) in March to TRY 196 (USD 23) in June 2021. This means that the assistance provided through the e-voucher programme is able to cover 61 percent of the food basket alone, excluding the cost of the non-food items expected to be covered by up to 20 percent of the assistance. Having reached 20 percent in June 2021, the food inflation rate might put further pressure on the food prices. Meanwhile, contracted markets in camps continued to offer lower prices than non-contracted shops.

Story From the Camps

When safety becomes too much to ask for, there is no choice but to leave everything behind. This is how Dalia, a mother of three, felt in 2011 when she and her husband fled their Syrian hometown of Idlib to neighbouring Turkey. Dalia is now her family's sole caregiver, as her husband was killed during a visit to Syria. She relies a lot on WFP's assistance to provide for her family and to cheer her children up. Read the full story [here](#).



Donors

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

Photo caption: Ahmad, a Syrian refugee in Turkey, playing in the camps where he resides with his family. **Photo:** WFP/Mehmet Cemtaş