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.

In October, WFP and its partner, the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), continued to assist 45,997 refugees residing in six camps across south-eastern Turkey. This assistance is provided under the e-voucher programme and equals TRY 120 (USD 14) per person, of which TRY 100 is allocated for food items.

Although the number of in-camp residents voluntarily leaving the camps was higher in the summer, the decreasing trend persisted in October, as many opt for settling in city centers and in other provinces to seek better opportunities for themselves and for their families.

WFP, with the support of its partners, continued to implement its flagship livelihoods programme, the Socioeconomic Empowerment and Sustainability (SES), that offers a wide array of trainings to both Syrian refugees and Turkish nationals. This month, 342 participants attended Chef Assistant, Store Attendant, Housekeeping and IT trainings in 13 provinces (Adana, Ankara, Bursa, Hatay, Istanbul, Izmir, Kahramanmaras, Kayseri, Kocaeli, Konya, Mardin, Mersin, Sanliurfa). Also, WFP pursues its efforts to widen its partnerships portfolio that will translate into more applied training opportunities for SES graduates.

WFP received the first draft of the research conducted by Turkish academics on WFP’s livelihoods’ project model which combines both technical and applied trainings to increase refugees’ and host community’s self-reliance. This research will be finalized by the end of November 2021 and will be used to showcase livelihood interventions’ models that may be replicated in other countries.

The Soup Kitchen assistance continued in Istanbul with the delivery of daily hot meals to both vulnerable refugees and Turkish nationals through Sultangazi Municipality’s soup kitchen. This assistance was initially launched as a COVID-19 response back in July 2020 in seven provinces.

In Numbers

- **47,472 people** assisted in October 2021 (estimated)
- **622,281 USD** distributed through value vouchers
- **34,709 USD** distributed through vocational and on-the-job trainings (estimated)
- **USD 6.9 m** six-month net funding requirements (November 2021 – April 2022)

Operational Updates

- In October, WFP and its partner, the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), continued to assist 45,997 refugees residing in six camps across south-eastern Turkey. This assistance is provided under the e-voucher programme and equals TRY 120 (USD 14) per person, of which TRY 100 is allocated for food items.
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Photo caption: First day of WFP Food Packaging training in Ankara. Photo: WFP/Faranak Sharifi
In the meantime, WFP continues to implement safety measures to minimize the risk of infection among its project participants, cooperating partners and staff.

**Events**

On 24 October, WFP took part in Gastrofest Festival, an event held in the western province of Izmir that aims to highlight the provinces’ gastronomic potential and turns it into a world destination in this regard. WFP's participation consisted of introducing its activities in Turkey in addition to the contribution of WFP Turkey Deputy Country Director, Margaret Rehm, to the discussions about the impact of climate change on food systems.

![Photo](WFP's team in Izmir during Gastrofest Festival that took place in Izmir on 24 October. Photo: WFP/Feride Yildirim.)

**Success Story**

Merve went from being a Kitchen of Hope (Mutfakta Umut Var/MUV) project participant to a professional trainer in the culinary sector. Showing great skills and dedication during the training, her teacher was impressed with her performance and recommended her for her current job. Merve, who received previous training at a younger age, says that being part of MUV helped her to extend her knowledge and put it into practice. “Although I graduated from Food and Beverage Department at high school, I got the chance to practice even more during MUV,” she says. MUV was implemented between 2019 and 2021 in seven provinces to help both Syrian refugees and Turkish nationals gain culinary skills.

![Photo](Merve slicing chicken during the MUV vocational training. Photo: WFP/Feride Yildirim.)

**Donors**

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