



SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



## WFP Turkey

Country Brief  
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 2020-2022) 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. The current ICSP has been extended to the end of 2022. The CSP (2023-2025) is under development and will be reviewed during the November 2022 Executive Board.



Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

Population of Turkey:  
**83.2 million**

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

### In Numbers



**48,056 people** assisted in November 2021 (estimated)

**USD 572,927** distributed through value vouchers

**USD 51,239** distributed through vocational and on-the-job trainings (estimated)

**USD 9 m** six-month net funding requirements (December 2021 – May 2022)

### Operational Updates

- The implementation of the e-voucher programme in six camps across south-eastern Turkey continued as planned. This month, 45,500 refugees received monthly assistance of TRY 120 (USD 13) per person, decreasing from 45,997 in October 2021.
- In 2021, the overall camp population decreased by 11 percent to reach around 45,000 persons. WFP's analyses and anecdotal evidence showed that one out of five refugees leaving the camps is a young adult who either opts for marriage and/or moving to cities where livelihood opportunities are available. Although leavers generally settle down in the provinces where their camps are located, Kayseri, Kahramanmaraş, Gaziantep and Istanbul remain the most popular destinations due to their industrial and agricultural potential.
- As of November, 897 participants continued to pursue Chef Assistant, Housekeeping, Food Packaging, Store Attendant and IT trainings in 15 provinces across Turkey (Adana, Ankara, Bursa, Gaziantep, Hatay, Istanbul, Izmir, Kahramanmaraş, Kayseri, Kocaeli, Konya, Mardin, Mersin, Sanliurfa and Sivas). These trainings are all delivered under the Socioeconomic Empowerment and Sustainability (SES) Programme implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) and The Turkish Employment Agency (ISKUR) with the aim to enhance the self-reliance of both refugees and the host community.
- WFP continued to seek new private sector partnerships to secure more On-the-Job training opportunities for SES graduates. The team met with several representatives of prominent markets, restaurants, cafés, textile companies and hotels across Turkey, including Hilton, Marriott, BIM and LC-Waikiki.
- With the delivery of 6,200 surplus meals to 50 families, this month, the Network Fresh (*As Ortajim*) Project exceeded its overall end target of 7,800, bringing the total number of meals delivered since the onset of the project in July 2021 to 11,554. The meals were supplied by 22 businesses and the beneficiaries were identified based on criteria determined by Istanbul's Şişli Municipality, WFP's partner for the project.

Contact info: [turkey.info@wfp.org](mailto:turkey.info@wfp.org)

Country Director: Nils Grede

Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/turkey](http://www.wfp.org/countries/turkey)

Photo caption: Food Packaging training participants in Ankara on their last training day. Photo: WFP/Faranak Sharifi

**Interim Country Strategic Plan (2020-2022)**

Total Requirements (USD)		Total Received (USD)
250 m		205 m
2021 Requirements (USD)	2022 Requirements (USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (USD) (December 2021 – May 2022)
29 m	31.7 m	9 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

- WFP is still reviewing the research reports drafted by two Turkish academics to put forward a model that brings together applied and technical training and that has the potential to be replicated in other countries. This process is expected to come to a close by the end of December 2021.

**Monitoring**

- The Q3 2021 Market Price Monitoring (MPM), On Site Monitoring (OSM) and Protection Report has been released. Between Q2 and Q3 2021, figures showed an increase of 8 percent in the food basket cost in the contracted markets inside the camps in September 2021 to reach a record high of TRY 213 (USD 22). This increase was triggered by the rising food inflation rate which reached 29 percent in August. As such, the monthly assistance received by in-camp beneficiaries can only cover 53 percent of the food basket cost, excluding the non-food items which the assistance is expected to cover 20 percent of their cost. Along with the deteriorating purchasing power of beneficiaries, the rising inflation forced market retailers to introduce some changes to their products, such as decreasing the grammage of bread loafs instead of increasing their prices. This, in turn, led to a decrease in beneficiaries’ calorie intake.

**Events**

- As part of the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence campaign, WFP organized an “Orange Day” Event with the participation of SES participants in the provinces of Ankara and Hatay. The event included games to raise awareness on gender equality and participants were provided with orange food items to highlight the importance of foods that boost immunity during the pandemic. Participants also had the opportunity to put into practice what they learned during the Food Packaging training by packaging their own “orange food” boxes.

**WFP in the Media**

- November was a busy month for WFP in terms of its relations and contact with local media. In this regard, WFP Turkey Representative and Country Director Nils Grede gave an interview to a local business magazine, *Ekonomist*, introducing SES, highlighting its added value and its contribution to the self-reliance of both refugees and members of the host community. Also, Mr Grede attended two global summits called [Uludag Summit](#) and [Harvard Business Review Sustainability Summit](#) during which he provided a general snapshot of WFP’s global operations as well as its contribution to alleviating the impact of global challenges such as climate crisis and malnutrition.

**Success Story**

- This store is not a random one, it’s the embodiment of its owner’s perseverance and determination. Rabi is a thirty-year-old Syrian SES participant who left his war-torn country eight years ago. Although he was running a market together with his Turkish friend, things took a different direction after he graduated from the store attendant training. Rabi currently owns his own market where he sells local and Syrian products. He feels more experienced now that he completed the Store Attendant training under SES. “Although I was already running a grocery store, I didn’t have as much knowledge as I do now before joining the store attendant course. It helped me to improve my knowledge of shelf arrangements, food storage as well as work permit and tax-related procedures. I would definitely recommend it to those who would like to work at this sector,” says Rabi.



**Photo caption:** The market owned and run by Rabi, a Syrian SES participant in the Turkish capital Ankara. Photo: WFP/Faranak Sharifi.